

## Dennis Ross arrives in Cairo

CAIRO (R) — The U.S. special coordinator for Middle East peace talks Dennis Ross arrived in Cairo on Tuesday on a mission to revive the talks, officials said. Mr. Ross will have dinner with Foreign Minister Amr Musa in Cairo on Tuesday and meet President Hosni Mubarak at his summer holiday home near the Mediterranean city of Alexandria on Wednesday, they added. He is expected to encourage Egypt to press on with preparations for a Middle East economic summit in Cairo in November, the next fixed event in the peace process calendar. Mr. Mubarak said on Monday that Egypt wanted the summit to go ahead but Israel and the United States had to contribute to ensuring it is a success. He has linked it with Israel meeting some of the Palestinian National Authority's (PNA) demands. Mr. Ross will travel on to Gaza in the autonomous Palestinian territories and then to Israel. U.S. officials said they did not think he would go to Syria.

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Wahid Shaer  
named AFM chief

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers on Tuesday approved the appointment of Wahid Abdul Shaer as director-general of the Amman Financial Market (AFM) with effect from Oct. 15, 1996. Information Minister Marwan Muasher said. Speaking to the press after the Cabinet session part of which was attended by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Dr. Muasher said Omayya Toukan, the serving AFM director-general, was appointed as an ambassador at the Foreign Ministry. Dr. Muasher said the Cabinet also heard a report from Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Khaled Madad-hah on the Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo this week. The information minister added that the Council of Ministers approved an amendment to the construction law in Amman Governorate.

U.S. flies out  
Iraqi Kurds

DIYARBAKIR (AFP) — Nearly 1,400 Iraqi Kurds who had been involved in U.S.-supported opposition to Iraq's government have boarded U.S. planes headed for the Pacific island of Guam, officials said. Another 687 remain on Turkish territory pending their evacuation to the United States. Some are in this town in Turkish Kurdistan, others at a Turkish military base at Silopi, near the Iraqi border. All are expected to have left by Wednesday, the officials said.

U.N. wants  
Cypriot meeting

ANKARA (AFP) — The United Nations is trying to organise a meeting between leaders of the Greek-Cypriot and Turkish-Cypriot communities to try to facilitate a settlement to the Cyprus problem, a U.N. official said here Tuesday. "We must try to find a way to bring together the leaders," Han Sung-Joo, U.N. Secretary General Boutros Ghali's special envoy on Cyprus, told the Anatolia news agency.

Diseases kill dozens in  
Sudan floods

KHARTOUM (R) — Dozens of Sudanese have died of diarrhoea, gastroenteritis and malaria in the Khartoum shanty town of Mayo because the annual Nile flood has turned the area into a swamp, state television said. The flooding also destroyed houses and disrupted traffic in the shantytowns of Wad Hussein and Soba, areas inhabited mainly by southerners displaced by civil war, said the report on Monday evening. Deep pools of water have formed in the areas, providing an excellent breeding ground for mosquitoes and germs. In Mayo the authorities set up two camps for 1,000 displaced families and are providing drugs and medical services, the official news agency SUNA reported. The government has sent in earth-moving equipment to dig channels to clear the area of water. The worst floods this year have been at Al Geili north of the capital, where 15 people were killed this month. The state is now building 105 permanent houses there for those who lost homes.

## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation  
جوردان تايمز. يومية سياسية مستقلة تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية. الراي

## Kahalani gets tough on illegal aliens

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Internal Security Minister Avigdor Kahalani vowed Tuesday to "make life bitter" for more than 100,000 illegal foreign workers who the government wants to force from the Jewish state. Mr. Kahalani told journalists following talks with Tel Aviv Mayor Ronni Milo on problems linked to illegal immigrants that he had instructed municipal governments to withhold social services from foreigners working illegally in Israel. "We have to make life bitter for foreign workers who are settling here and are making Tel Aviv their city," said Mr. Kahalani, who is in charge of the country's civilian police and security agencies. "We cannot permit them to set up 'health salons' (disguised borders) or to turn their apartments into unauthorised churches," he said, referring to makeshift Christian chapels created by some African immigrant communities recent years.

## U.S.-Iraq tension on the rise again

Clinton sending more troops to Kuwait, threatens disproportionate strike against Iraq as domestic criticism mounts; Aziz says Washington is planning new attack

Combined agency  
dispatches

PRESIDENT BILL Clinton said Tuesday he was sending more troops to Kuwait and told lawmakers the United States will strike Iraq disproportionately if it does not comply with U.S. demands.

Mr. Clinton met at the White House with leading senators from both parties amid Republican criticism that he had failed to keep the Gulf war coalition together and had not acted strongly enough against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Mr. Clinton defended the U.S. response as designed "to improve the strategic position of the United States and our allies to keep Saddam Hussein in a box and to limit his ability to threaten his neighbours."

That is a smaller box now because we have extended the no-fly zone."

Mr. Clinton added that the U.S. has "put Saddam Hussein on notice that we do

not want him to take any action that would increase the dangers to our pilots."

The State Department said the United States had sent a fresh message to Iraq telling it not to interfere with Western enforcement of no-fly-zones over Iraq.

"This demarche... put the Iraqi government on notice that they were not to take actions that either threatened the safety of the coalition pilots or our ability to enforce the no-fly-zones — Southern Watch and Operation Provide Comfort in the north," spokesman Nicholas Burns said.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz said the U.S. was beefing up its military presence in the Gulf to launch another military strike against his country.

"American pretexts and excuses for the massing of troops and weapons in the Arab Gulf region are aimed at the staging of an aggression on Iraq," Mr. Aziz said in a statement carried by the official Iraqi News

Agency (INA).

An official Iraqi newspaper published what it described as an open letter to Mr. Clinton, challenging him to disclose a single positive outcome of American missile attacks on Iraq.

"Clinton, O great president of America, the results of your aggression against Iraq came contrary to your expectations," the daily Al Iraq said. "Cohesion among our people has been reinforced and so has their belief in ultimate victory."

"Clinton, you have lost a great deal," it said.

Anti-U.S. rhetoric in Iraq's official media has escalated since U.S. forces fired 44 missiles against Iraq earlier this month to punish Baghdad for sending its troops into a Kurdish safe haven in northern Iraq.

Al Iraq defied Mr. Clinton to "announce to the American people the positive results of your aggression, of your missiles and of your messages of death."

"You don't dare do so, because you have gained

nothing from military operations against Iraq but defeat," the paper added.

Whether Mr. Clinton "is reelected or departs the White House" in the November U.S. presidential election, Iraq "will not have any regrets," the paper said.

That's because "President Saddam Hussein, who is revered by the Iraqis and is the hope of the Arab Nation, will stay on."

President Clinton signed orders Monday night to send some 3,500 U.S. troops from Fort Hood, Texas to join about 1,200 troops that have been in Kuwait since August.

The troops would be leaving over the next couple of days, a Pentagon spokesman said, adding that the situation on the ground in Iraq was quiet.

Kuwait belatedly agreed Monday to accept the troops, but the administration appeared to have reconsidered in light of

(Continued on page 7)

Regent meets German team, voices  
Jordan's keen desire to play key role

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, Tuesday reaffirmed Jordan's keen desire to play its regional role through its partnership and association with the European countries.

The Regent also voiced hope that Europe will help implement the recommendations and resolutions passed by the Middle East and North Africa Economic summit which was held in Amman last year.

Speaking at a meeting at the Royal Court with a visiting delegation representing the economic cooperation committee of the German parliament, the Regent said the Kingdom, which is located between Israel in the west and the oil-rich Gulf states in the east, could play a leading regional role in development.

Referring to local issues,

the Regent said that Jordan was facing an economic challenge at a time when the Jordanian citizens were still awaiting concrete and positive results of the Kingdom's peace treaty with the Jewish state.

With reference to the Palestinian refugees question, Prince Hassan said: "Jordan is concerned with rehabilitating the refugees but not settling them in the Kingdom."

With reference to the burdens shouldered by the Kingdom as a result of caring for the refugees, Prince Hassan said: "Among the five countries hosting the refugees Jordan shouldered the heaviest burdens, spending more than \$300 million to cater to their needs."

"We in Jordan are concerned with rehabilitating the refugees by first conducting a social survey which must cover all con-

centrations of refugees in the five host countries and then efforts should be made towards improving the refugees' living conditions within the ongoing economic development process in this region."

Prince Hassan urged Germany to participate in projects aimed at boosting water resources, combating poverty, improving energy resources and protecting environment.

He reiterated his earlier call for the creation of specialised institutions that will cater to the requirements of regional security and economic cooperation.

In reply the head of the delegation Mrs. D. Schmidt, voiced Germany's appreciation of Jordan's endeavours towards peace and said that the delegation has been impressed by the Kingdom's orientation

(Continued on page 7)

Crown  
Prince  
urges focus  
on helping  
refugees

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, on Tuesday reiterated the need for the world community to help resolve the Palestinian refugee problem, closing a conference this week on refugees as a platform for discussing this issue.

"My feeling is that the term 'refugees' has been absent in the Western media and we have a duty to reaffirm the refugees' rights to repatriation and we have to do whatever we can in this regard," said the Regent after attending the Cabinet's regular session.

Asked to comment on the prospects and the work of the conference on refugees scheduled for Monday, the Prince said: "Jordan has established a centre for research on refugees affairs at Yarmouk University supported by Canada, which is involved in the refugees issue in the multilateral phase of the Middle East peace process. Jordan has been among the main countries to offer help to the refugees. Among the five Middle Eastern countries hosting the refugees, Jordan shouldered the heaviest burden. We are concerned with and work towards reasserting the dignity and the rights of the refugees."

Asked to elaborate on his own suggestions of holding national dialogues and about the Cabinet meeting he said: "It was natural for me to review with the ministers questions connected with the serious developments in the region. Second, I would like to remind you of the conference on administrative development which was attended by 13 Arab and African countries in Amman and which highlighted the need for appropriate systems for the work of governments and the participation of all sectors in government work. I believe every citizen has the right to participate in constructive dialogue."

GOVERNMENT OF JORDAN  
PRIVATIZATION OF  
TELECOMMUNICATIONS CORPORATION  
INVITATION FOR EXPRESSIONS OF  
INTEREST FOR FINANCIAL ADVISORS

The Government of Jordan has embarked on a Privatization Program, and the privatization of the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) will constitute an early and important transaction in the program. The Government's objectives with the privatization of TCC are to:

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- Accelerate the expansion of the network;
- Maximize the proceeds of the sale;
- Expedite the commercialization of TCC operations; and
- Transfer technology and modernize systems and operations.

It is the Government's intention to engage a qualified Financial Advisor (FA) to prepare and execute the divestiture of 26% of TCC shares to a Strategic Partner in a transparent manner. The FA will be responsible for all activities related to the sale, from marketing to implementation of the transaction.

Expressions of interest to act as the Financial Advisors to the Government of Jordan are requested from World-class firms/consortia that have acted as the lead-advisor to a government in a sale of a substantial proportion of a major telecommunications company to a strategic investor. Short-listed firms will subsequently be invited to submit a technical and financial proposal.

Prospective firms/consortia may send their expression of interest by 3:00 p.m. local time, Tuesday, 15th of October, 1996, along with relevant and detailed documentation demonstrating that they meet the above specified criteria, to:

H.E. Jamal Al-Sarayrah  
Minister of Post and Communications  
TCC Tower Building, 3rd Circle  
Amman, Jordan  
Tel: (962-6) 656559; Fax (962-6) 627743.

NOTE: This Advertisement does not constitute an invitation for potentially interested investors to initiate contacts with the Government of Jordan.



## Kuwaiti ministers launch diplomatic drive over Iraq

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait stepped up a diplomatic offensive on Tuesday to win support from 1991 Gulf war Arab allies following opposition from some countries to U.S. military strikes against Iraq.

Information Minister Sheikh Saud Nasser Al Saud Al Sabah left around dawn for Egypt to discuss steps taken so far in Washington's latest standoff with Iraq and would go on from Cairo to Syria, officials said.

Defence Minister Sheikh Ahmad Hamoud Al Jaber Al Sabah left late on Monday for talks with some of the other five members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC), some of whom apparently have reservations about a U.S. military buildup in the region.

"We know who our enemy is — and we know who our friends are. The future of this country is above any other consideration," columnist Bader Al Asfar wrote in Al Watan about Kuwait's repeated post-Gulf war security flare-ups with Iraq.

Egypt and Syria are the Arab world's two main military powers which formed the Damascus declaration alliance with the GCC days after a U.S.-led coalition ended Iraq's seven-month occupation of Kuwait in 1991. The oil-rich, Saudi-dominated GCC also groups Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates.

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah flew to Britain on Monday night from France follow-

ing talks in Egypt with President Hosni Mubarak.

The Kuwaiti campaign follows hard on the heels of a lightning bout of U.S. lobbying of its Western partners to preserve the old coalition against Iraqi President Saddam Hussein.

Opposition by most Arab allies, France and Turkey to direct involvement in possible U.S. military strikes against Iraq is making it difficult for Washington and Kuwait to justify additional action without further splits in the alliance.

Kuwait on Monday agreed to receive more U.S. soldiers and stressed it would not hesitate to take further measures to deter what it sees as threats by former occupier Iraq.



BAGHDAD MARKET: An Iraqi woman bargains with a seller over the price of fish at a market in downtown Baghdad on Monday. Fishing in the two main rivers of Iraq, Euphrates and Tigris, has become a key source of income for many Iraqis, who are suffering from the international sanctions imposed on their country in 1990 (Reuters photo)

## Saudi ruler ends Qatari feud

The Guardian

SAUDI ARABIA'S Crown Prince Abdullah has personally intervened in the feud between the emir of the tiny Gulf state of Qatar, Sheikh Hamad and his father, Sheikh Khalifa, over some \$8 billion of funds said to be missing from the Qatari treasury.

The two warring sheikhs were due to lock horns in the High Court in London this week in the first of eight legal actions around the world.

But Qatari officials have confirmed to the Guardian that a settlement has been reached to avoid the political embarrassment of having to disentangle the conflict between the income of the state and its ruler.

The emir wants the return of state funds which he accuses his father of misappropriating during his 23 years as head of the wealthy sheikhdom. Sheikh Khalifa, who was deposed by his son in a bloodless coup last year, has maintained that as the ruling sheikh, he was entitled to

take the money. "One cannot steal one's own money," he argued in documents submitted to the courts.

The prospect of a Gulf emir accusing another of misappropriating state money in a public trial in London is said to have alarmed many other ruling families in the Gulf and banks in the City of London were anxiously watching the case for the impact it might have on deposits from the oil-rich area.

"The case may have revealed that embezzlement is a way of life for these Gulf royal families. And no-one wanted that," said one official close to the case.

The emir is said to have come under considerable pressure from the Saudis not to bring the case to trial. Qatari sources have alleged the former emir routinely and illegally transferred huge sums of money into European and American bank accounts.

Saudi dissident sources in London claim the legal action was proving highly

embarrassing to the Al Saud regime. They allege the Saudi royal family profited in the last few decades when the country became awash with oil money.

As yet, no details of the agreement being brokered by the Saudi crown prince have been disclosed. But officials close to the deal said it was likely Sheikh Khalifa would have to return some of the disputed funds.

Last week Sheikh Khalifa took the significant step of waiving his argument that as an emir, he was entitled to sovereign immunity and that his son was not entitled to take civil proceedings against him.

His decision is likely to have relieved the British Foreign Office of the task of ruling on the issue.

This week Sheikh Khalifa was due to seek a ruling overturning the court order which froze his assets in London in July. But that has been adjourned pending detailed negotiations. The British lawyers for both sides appear to have been kept in the dark.

## Bhutto denies Pakistan is interfering in Afghan war

ISLAMABAD (R) — Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto denied on Tuesday Afghan government charges that Pakistan was meddling in Afghanistan's long-running civil war and urged all factions to stop fighting and talk.

"We were very disturbed to hear the accusations from the Kabul government," she told Reuters in an interview.

"We were concerned because we had spent many long and arduous months building bridges in the Kabul regime and recently things had seemed to brighten up."

Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani's spokesman urged Pakistan on Monday to "recall its militias" from Afghanistan, a reference to the rebel Taliban movement, which captured the eastern city of Jalalabad last Wednesday.

"Really we are not involved in internal Afghan

developments," Ms. Bhutto said. "We would like to show the Kabul government and all the other groups that we do not wish to interfere and we have nothing to gain from interfering."

"We seek friendship with all Afghan people wherever they may reside... And I would like to take this opportunity to urge an intra-Afghan dialogue and an end to the fighting," she said.

Pakistan froze contacts with the Rabbani government after a mob sacked its embassy in Kabul a year ago in protest at alleged Pakistani backing for the Taliban militants.

Relations improved recently when Pakistan agreed to reopen its Kabul mission in temporary premises and sold substantial quantities of food to the Afghan government, though the Taliban seizure of Jalalabad has prevented its delivery by road.

Ms. Bhutto said her gov-

ernment backed United Nations peace efforts, which she said needed full Western support.

"The United Nations on its own will not be in a position to exercise the same kind of influence," she said, citing the role of the United States in brokering the Dayton accords for Bosnia.

"I think it's important to have a U.N.-backed solution, but more important is the political support the West is prepared to give the United Nations in seeking a solution," Ms. Bhutto said.

She said some Western and Muslim countries had grown frustrated with attempts to reach an Afghan settlement and frequent violations of solemnly sworn accords.

"It's important not to be frustrated but to press again for a political solution," Ms. Bhutto said, adding that it was vital to prevent bloodshed that a Taliban assault on Kabul might cause.

## Israel transferred Palestinians to Brazil after 1967 war

From The Jerusalem Report

SAO PAULO — A small group of Brazilian Jewish leaders, working in partnership with Israel, paved the way for numerous Palestinian families to leave the occupied territories soon after the six-day war and start new lives in southern Brazil. This never-before-reported case of "voluntary transfer" has been uncovered by The Jerusalem Report almost 30 years after the event.

According to several Brazilian Jewish leaders, finally breaking their silence on the issue, the initiative came from the Israeli government of the day.

According to Hanan Bar-On, who at the time was spokesman of the Israeli Foreign Ministry, it was a private initiative — but one initially approved by the then-defence minister, Moshe Dayan.

Marcus Arbeitman, a former head of the World Maccabiah who now runs Hebraica, a huge Jewish

sports club and cultural centre in Sao Paulo, says Israeli representatives approached Brazilian Jewry and sought their help.

The desire, says Arbeitman, was to encourage Palestinians from the newly captured territories to relocate to Brazil, with its sizeable Arab community — improving their economic outlook and simultaneously reducing their number in Israeli-held land.

The story was confirmed to The Report by Fiszle Czeresnia, a former senior

Jewish official in Sao Paulo. Both Arbeitman and Czeresnia noted that Jewish leaders in Brazil helped successfully lobby the Brazilian government to grant the Palestinians entry permits.

The new arrivals made their homes in the southern town of Foz do Iguaçu, at the triangle where the Brazilian, Para-guayan and Argentinian borders meet. According to Czeresnia, a Brazilian Jew named Israel Klabin, who has since died, even provided financing for the transfer. "First they

came," says Czeresnia. "Then their families followed, and the community grew." While the Brazilian sources spoke of thousands or even tens of thousands of Palestinians who relocated in this way, Bar-On thought it unlikely that more than a dozen families were involved. He said the idea had been to encourage Palestinians, from Gaza in particular, to move to various countries in South America, not just Brazil, and that Dayan, having initially green-lighted the operation, later had reservations and put a halt to it. Palestinian and Lebanese emigres maintain a thriving community in Foz do Iguaçu to this day. Indeed, the town has been frequently cited as a possible base from which pro-Iranian terrorists may have organised one or both of the suicide bombings in Buenos Aires — the 1992 explosion at the Israeli embassy and the blast two years later at the AMIA community headquarters building.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Algeria's forces kill 10 rebels in Algiers

PARIS (R) — Algerian security forces killed 10 guerrillas suspected of murdering civilians and members of government forces in Algiers, Algeria's Al Watan newspaper said on Tuesday. The paper, well informed on security matters, said eight rebels were shot dead on Saturday in the northern edge of Algiers. The group had been active in four sectors in the Algerian capital, and had killed civilians opposed to guerrillas, it added. Two others, trying to steal a car, were killed on Sunday in Leveilly neighbourhood by a police patrol.

### Greece hopes for realistic Netanyahu approach

DAMASCUS (AFP) — Greek Foreign Minister Theodore Pangalos urged Israel on Tuesday to offer "more realistic ideas" to revive stalled peace talks with its Arab neighbours. "I hope that the Middle East peace process would resume and that the Israeli prime minister would propose more realistic ideas," Mr. Pangalos said on arrival in Syria for an official visit. Mr. Pangalos, who is scheduled to meet with President Hafez Al Assad later Tuesday, said he had come to Damascus to hear its views on the peace process. He said Syria's role is "essential" in the region, and added that Athens backed Arab demands for the implementation of U.N. resolutions as a basis for a settlement to the Mideast conflict. The Greek minister also described Greek-Syrian relations as "excellent."

### U.S. aid official kidnapped in Mogadishu

MOGADISHU (AFP) — U.S. aid official Daniel Suther was kidnapped in the north of the Somali capital Mogadishu on Tuesday by unidentified Somali gunmen, a source close to the abductors said. Mr. Suther, an employee of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID), was kidnapped after being mistaken for an official of the U.N. World Food Programme (WFP), from which Somali subcontractors have been demanding money, the source said.

### 2 Turkish soldiers released by Kurds

HABUR (AFP) — Two Turkish soldiers held for 15 months by Kurdish guerrillas in northern Iraq were handed over to Ankara authorities on Tuesday, officials said. Red Cross personnel took the soldiers and their families from northern Iraq to Habur, the only border crossing between the two countries. The troops were released to the Red Cross Monday in Dohuk in northern Iraq. The soldiers were captured last year in southeast Turkey during clashes with the Kurdish Labour Party (PKK), a Turkish Kurd separatist army, and held in a PKK camp in northern Iraq. The PKK is holding five other Turkish soldiers, officials said. A deputy of the Islamic party in power in Turkey caused an uproar in August by travelling with relatives of the seven soldiers to a PKK camp in northern Iraq in a failed bid to obtain their release. The PKK has been fighting since 1984 to carve out an independent homeland in the mainly Kurdish southeast region of Turkey. The clashes with government forces have left some 22,000 people dead.

### Policeman found killed in shootout in Egypt

CAIRO (AP) — The body of a policeman was found in southern Egypt Tuesday, a day after a shootout between security forces and militants wounded seven people. The body of Tamer Salah Abdel Hamid was found in Sahel Selim in the southern province of Assiut, 320 kilometres south of Cairo. Last week, eight civilians and a policeman were killed in clashes in the area. In the shootout Monday, a militant and six policemen were wounded. Police later arrested seven suspected extremists. Militants are seeking to overthrow the secular government of President Hosni Mubarak. More than 975 people have been killed in the violence since 1992, most of them police and militants.

### Israel helicopter crashed into sea

TEL AVIV (AP) — An Israeli air force helicopter crashed into the Mediterranean during exercises off northern Israel and at least one of three crew members was killed, the army said Tuesday. Air force planes and navy boats launched a search after communication with the Dolphin helicopter was lost Monday. At about midnight Monday, the body of one of the crew members and the wreckage of the helicopter was found at sea. Two other crew members were missing Tuesday, the army said.

### JORDAN TELEVISION

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### PROGRAMME TWO

15:20 ..... Flintstones  
15:45 ..... The Adventures  
16:10 ..... Kelly  
16:30 ..... Earth Revealed  
17:00 ..... NewsFlash  
17:02 Document — LaFrance  
Aux 1000 Villages  
17:30 ..... Varieties — L'ivite  
De Marque  
18:00 ..... Document — Les  
Enfants Du Voyage  
19:00 ..... Le Journal  
19:15 Magazine — Sport Et  
Musique  
19:30 ..... News Headlines  
19:35 ..... Evening Shade  
20:00 ..... Super Stars of Action  
20:30 ..... Chancer  
21:10 ..... Hunter  
22:00 ..... News in English  
22:25 ..... The Bold And  
Beautiful  
23:10 ..... Bugs

### PRAYER TIMES

04:59 ..... Fajr  
06:16 ..... Sunrise/Duha  
12:30 ..... Dhuhur  
16:00 ..... Asr  
18:44 ..... Maghrib  
20:02 ..... Isha

### CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth  
Church Sw Giffith, Tel. 810740  
Assemblies of God Church  
Tel. 632785  
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624890  
Church of the Annunciation  
Tel. 637440  
De la Salle Church Tel.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

661757  
Terra Sancta Church Tel. 622366  
Anglican Church Tel. 652826  
Armenian Catholic Church  
Tel. 771331  
Armenian Orthodox Church  
Tel. 775261  
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751  
Amman International  
Church Tel. 827126  
Evangelical Lutheran  
Church Tel. 824328  
German-speaking Evangelical  
Congregation Tel. 845457  
The Latter-Day Saints Tel.  
654932  
Church of Nazareth Tel.  
675691  
The Evangelical Local Church  
in Amman Tel. 811295  
English-speaking Latin  
Catholics Parish Tel. 614190.

### WEATHER

Bulletin supplied by the  
Department of Meteorology.  
Fine weather conditions will  
prevail during the day becoming  
relatively cool at night  
with temperatures lower than  
average by 3-4 degrees centi-  
grade and winds northwesterly  
moderate in active. On Thurs-  
day, temperatures are expected  
to rise gradually. In Aqaba,  
winds will be northerly active  
and seas calm.  
Amman ..... 16/28  
Aqaba ..... 22/35  
Deserts ..... 15/31

Jordan Valley ..... 25/36  
Yesterday's high temperatures:  
Amman 27, Aqaba 34 Humid-  
ity readings: Amman 37 per  
cent, Aqaba 38 per cent.

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY  
Dr. Ghaleb Zawalidh 736011  
Dr. Jihad Sammour  
765018  
Dr. Hisham Kan'an 790286  
Dr. Khalidoun Asfour  
666873  
Firas pharmacy ..... 661912  
Ferdows pharmacy ..... 890280  
Al Asema pharmacy ..... 637055  
Al Salam pharmacy ..... 636730  
Yacoub pharmacy ..... 644945  
Shmeisani pharmacy 637660  
Najib pharmacy ..... 847632  
IRBID:  
Dr. Ghazi Th'amneh 250080  
Al Quds pharmacy ..... (—)  
ZARQA:  
Dr. Akram Haddad ..... 985550  
Khalifeh pharmacy ..... 985417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre 637111  
Civil Defence Department  
611111  
Civil Defence Immediate  
Rescue 630341  
Civil Defence Emergency  
199  
Rescue Police 192, 621111,  
637777

Fire Brigade ..... 617101  
Blood Bank ..... 775121  
Highway Police ..... 843402  
Traffic Police ..... 896390  
Public Security Department  
630321  
Hotel Complaints ..... 605800  
Price Complaints ..... 661176  
Water and Sewerage Com-  
plaints ..... 897467  
Amman Municipality Com-  
plaints ..... 787111  
Telephone Informadn  
(directory assistance) ..... 121  
Overseas Calls ..... 010230  
Central Amman Telephone  
Repairs ..... 623101  
Abdali Telephone Repairs  
661101  
Jordan Television ..... 773111  
Radio Jordan ..... 774111  
Water Authority ..... 680100  
Jordan Electricity Authority  
815615  
Electric Power Company  
636381  
RJ Flight Information 08-  
53200  
Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-  
53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:  
Hussein Medical Centre  
813813/32  
Khalidi Maternity, 644281/6  
Akhil Maternity, 64241/2  
Jabal Ammao Maternity  
642362  
Malhas, J. Amman ..... 636140  
Palestine, Shmeisani

607071  
Shmeisani Hospital 669131  
University Hospital 845845  
Al-Muasher Hospital  
6672279  
The Islamic, Abdali 666126/37  
Al-Ahli, Abdali ..... 664164/6  
Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3  
Al-Bashir ..... 775111/26  
Army, Marka ..... 891611/15  
Queen Alia Hospital  
602240/50  
Amal Hospital ..... 674155  
The Arab Centre for Heart  
and Special Surgery ..... 865199  
ZARQA:  
Zarqa Govt. Hospital  
(09)983323  
Zarqa Natl. Hospital  
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Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732  
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(09)990990  
IRBID:  
Princess Basma Hospital  
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Greek Catholic Hospital  
(02)272275  
Ibn Al Nafees Hospital  
(02)247100  
AQABA:  
Princess Haya Hospital  
(03)314111

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA  
INTERNATIONAL  
AIRPORT  
This information is supplied  
by Royal Jordanian (RJ) infor-  
mation department at the

Queen Alia International Air-  
port Tel. (08)53200 where it  
should always be verified.  
Information on other flights  
are supplied on phone 08  
(52700) or 08 532501.

### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ)  
Flights  
08:00 ..... Damascus (RJ)  
09:30 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
09:55 ..... Larnaca (RJ)  
09:30 ..... Jeddah (RJ)  
10:10 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)  
10:50 ..... Doha, Bahrain (RJ)  
15:45 New York, Amsterdam  
(RJ)  
17:30 ..... Toronto, Montreal (RJ)  
18:15 ..... Istanbul (RJ)  
19:00 ..... Madrid, Geneva (RJ)  
19:10 Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)  
19:15 ..... London, Berlin (RJ)  
19:40 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
19:40 ..... Paris, Brussels (RJ)  
00:30 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
01:10 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
04:25 ..... Kuala Lumpur  
(RJ)  
Other Flights  
12:00 ..... Sanaa (IY)  
12:15 ..... Jeddah (SV)  
13:00 Karachi, Abu Dhabi  
(PK)  
13:15 ..... Cairo (MS)  
13:40 ..... Doha, Abu Dhabi (GF)  
14:30 ..... Tunis (TU)  
15:00 ..... Vienna (OS)  
16:20 ..... Algiers (AH)

19:00 ..... Dubai (EK)  
20:40 ..... London, Beirut (BA)  
21:10 ..... Beirut (ME)  
21:40 ..... Tel Aviv (LY)  
22:35 ..... Larnaca (CY)  
23:20 ..... Amsterdam (KL)  
23:30 ..... Athens (OA)  
Royal Wings (RW) Flights  
19:45 ..... Tel Aviv (QAJA) (RW)

### DEPARTURES

11:15 Amsterdam, New York  
(RJ)  
11:30 ..... Rome (RJ)  
11:40 ..... Berlin, London (RJ)  
12:10 Tunis, Casablanca (RJ)  
12:45 ..... Istanbul (RJ)  
20:20 ..... Colombo (RJ)  
20:45 ..... Beirut (RJ)  
21:10 ..... Cairo (RJ)  
21:10 ..... Riyadh, Dhahran (RJ)  
21:25 ..... New Delhi (RJ)  
21:30 Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)  
22:15 ..... Dubai, Muscat (RJ)  
02:15 ..... Sanaa (RJ)  
Other Flights  
04:00 ..... Amsterdam (KL)  
08:45 ..... Beirut (ME)  
09:15 ..... London (BA)  
12:00 ..... Sanaa (IY)  
13:45 ..... Jeddah (SV)  
14:15 ..... Beirut, Abu Dhabi,  
Karachi (PK)  
14:30 ..... Doha, Muscat (GF)  
15:30 ..... Tunis (TU)  
15:50 ..... Vienna (OS)  
17:20 ..... Sharjah (AH)  
20:00 ..... Dubai (EK)  
22:50 ..... Tel Aviv (LY)  
23:30 ..... Larnaca (CY)  
00:20 ..... Amsterdam (KL)

04:00 ..... Athens (OA)  
Royal Wings (RW) Flights  
20:30 ..... Aqaba (RW)

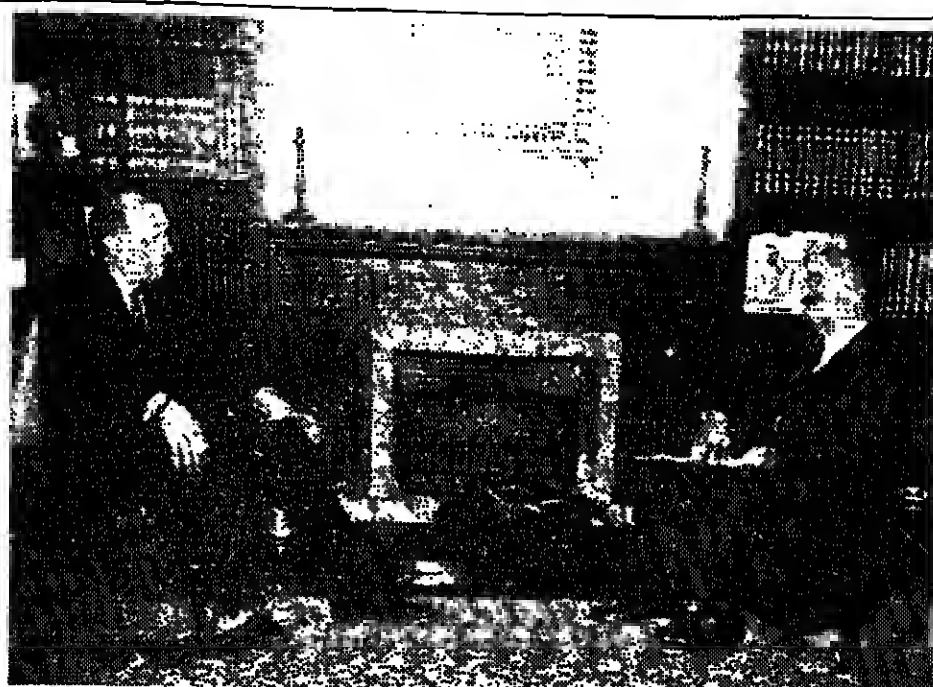
### MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fils per kg.

Apple ..... 700/500  
Banana ..... 600/600  
Banana (mukhammar) ..... 520/520  
Banana (imported) ..... 760/500  
Cabbage ..... 120/80  
Carrot ..... 280/140  
Cauliflower ..... 450/28  
Cucumber (large) ..... 150/100  
Cucumber (small) ..... 280/180  
Eggplant ..... 240/150  
Fig ..... 300/200  
Garlic ..... 700/450  
Grapes ..... 400/300  
Guava ..... 770/400  
Lemon ..... 360/250  
Marrow (large) ..... 180/120  
Marrow (small) ..... 340/200  
Mulukiah ..... 120/70  
Onion (dry) ..... 160/90  
Okra ..... 1200/700  
Pea ..... 650/400  
Pepper (hot) ..... 340/200  
Pepper (sweet) ..... 350/200  
Plum ..... 620/400  
Pomegranate ..... 380/250  
Potato ..... 270/160  
String Bean ..... 700/400  
Sweet melon ..... 380/250  
Tomato ..... 220/120  
Water melon ..... 220/120



# Home News



His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, discussed bilateral cooperation in scientific and industrial fields with a visiting Canadian delegation led by Pierre Beemans, Mr. Beemans, who is deputy chairman of the Canadian Industrial Development Board, briefed Prince Hassan on the outcome of negotiations with the Royal Scientific Society (RSS) concerning the establishment of an association between the Canadians and the RSS. He said such an association would promote joint investments and that the board could offer advanced medical and industrial counselling and services. RSS President Hani Mnlki and the Canadian Ambassador to Jordan, Michael Sallaberry were present at the meeting (Petra photo)



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma on Tuesday visits Social Services Centre (Petra photo)

## HRH inaugurates community centres

AMMAN (Petra) — HRH Princess Basma Tuesday inaugurated two centres, the first dedicated to social services and the second to the activities of the Jordanian National Forum for Women (JNF) in Sahab, south of Amman.

At the opening ceremony of the Social Services Centre, funded by the Queen Alia Fund for Social Development (QAF), the Princess urged its utilisation by the local community for social, recreational and other cooperative activities among various age groups.

Later Princess Basma, who is chairperson of the QAF, toured the centre which contains a kindergarten, a women's vocational centre, health clinic and multi-purpose hall.

Princess Basma subsequently inaugurated the JNF Centre and stated her expectation that the centre would serve as a meeting place for local women to work on improving the status and role of women in political, social and economic fields.

She later travelled further south to Jweideh and met the JNF located there to discuss their services to the local community.

QAF officials and Amman Governor Talaat Nawaiseh were among the officials accompanying Princess Basma on her tour.

## Jordan to receive 'open sky' rights with U.S. — minister

AMMAN (J.T.) — The U.S. has agreed to a draft "open sky" policy agreement to be concluded with Jordan soon, according to Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Royal Jordanian (RJ) might land at any desired destination within the United States, according to an RJ statement released Tuesday.

An unnamed RJ official told the Jordan Times that the agreement stipulates any number of flights to U.S. destinations with no obligation of prior approval from American civil aviation authorities.

He said this agreement, which is slated to take effect by 1997, also grants U.S. airlines the right to fly and land in Jordanian airports.

The official explained further that the U.S. previously signed a similar agreement with various European countries and the current "open sky" policy agreement allows RJ to fly over any European country which has concluded a similar agreement with the United States.

Jordan News Agency, Petra, quoted Minister of Transport Naser Lawzi as saying that the government has received the draft agreement from the Americans and that it was reviewed by the Ministry of Transport, the Civil Aviation Authority and RJ, who all "granted their approval and sent" their affirmation to the U.S. government.

Mr. Lawzi stated that with the conclusion of the agreement, Jordan would be the first non-European country in the world to have acquired "open sky" policy rights in the United States.

He said that the Jordanian government has met intensively with the U.S. government over the past few months in connection with the agreement and hopes that the two sides will formally sign the contract soon.

## Gamma knife laser surgery technique introduced in seminar

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — HRH Princess Christina Mrs. Magnuson of Sweden Monday evening emphasised that medical cooperation to learn more about the latest technology in medicine among physicians in the region was of the utmost importance.

"This gathering will help us all get acquainted with the latest technology in medicine which will contribute to the benefit and comfort of patients," the Princess said, addressing the International Symposium and Workshop on Minimal Invasive Neurosurgery which she officially inaugurated.

Princess Christina, who is the chairman of the Swedish Red Cross, praised cooperative efforts between Sweden and Jordan pointing out advanced medical skills and centres in the Kingdom, the Jordan News Agency Petra reported.

President of the Pan-Arab Union of Neurological Sciences (PAUNS), Mohammad Imaddin Fadly stated that Jordan will be the only country in the region which provides Gamma Knife surgery.

"Hopefully this medical service will provide a good opportunity for future generations of physicians in the Arab world to gain more experience in this field," Dr. Fadly added.

The three-day seminar, which is organised by PAUNS in cooperation with Elekta Instruments Inc. of Stockholm, was attended by HRH Prince Ra'ed Bin Zeid and HRH Princess Majidah.

Prince Ra'ed Tuesday officially inaugurated the Amman Gamma Knife Centre, which utilises the Leksell Gamma Knife, located at Ibn Al Haytham Hospital.

Ibn Al Haytham Hospital in Amman is the only hospital that uses gamma knife radio surgery in the Middle East and Africa, and so far 21 patients have been successfully treated, according to Dr. Ishaq Marqa, director of the Amman Gamma Knife Centre.

"Every operation has been successful so far," Dr. Marqa added.

Earlier on Monday, during a press conference Elekta

Instruments explained the benefits and operation of the Gamma Knife surgery.

The treatment involves neither knife nor surgery but rather hundreds of powerful, highly focused radiation beams aimed at a given malformation, with little or no risk of complications or side effects, according to Severker Litorin, corporate vice-president in charge of communications and investor relations at Elekta Instruments Inc.

The Gamma Knife was developed in 1950 by a Swedish neurosurgeon, Lars Leksell of the Karolinska Institute at the University of Uppsala in Sweden.

The first treatment unit was installed in Stockholm in 1968 and manufactured by Elekta Instruments Inc. of Stockholm.

Asked why the technology was not introduced in Jordan and the Middle East earlier, Dr. Marqa told reporters that several attempts have been made in the past 10 years to bring in the technology, "but we were deterred by financial problems."

Gamma knife technically known as stereo tactic radio surgery, is revolutionising the treatment of some diseases of the brain including benign tumours in treacherous locations, like the brain stem or near the optic nerve.

The \$4 million machine replaces the surgeon's scalpel with a single, high dose of gamma radiation emitted by a cobalt-60 source. The patient wears a helmet which has 201 small round holes in it which aim the radiation at a single tiny target.

The tissue being treated thus receives a very strong dose of radiation without incurring auxiliary damage.

The operation is usually performed under local anaesthesia with mild sedation and takes 1 to 20 minutes depending on the size of the area being treated.

Doctors from the United Kingdom, U.S., Austria and Sweden will be lecturing during the three-day workshop on such topics as Radio Surgery, Image-Guided surgery and other neurological techniques.

Doctors from Jordan, Palestine, Iraq, Syria, Egypt, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, Sudan, Kuwait, Indonesia, and Tunisia, will be participating in the symposium representing both public and private sectors.

## Council of Ministers begins process of decentralisation

AMMAN (Petra) — The Council of Ministers Tuesday decided to delegate some of its powers to government ministers as part of the ongoing trend towards decentralisation of public administration.

They released a statement confirming the nomination of Minister of Finance Marwan Awad to fund matters connected to fund and bid allocations particularly in matters related to public works and services.

The Council of Ministers also authorised the minister to sign agreements on behalf of the government related to granting communications members, technicians and experts allowances upon solicitation of their services by the government.

Furthermore, the Council of Ministers sanctioned Minister of Public Works and Housing Abdul Hadi Al Majali to negotiate and approve tenders for the Ministry of Public Works and Housing, provided that each bid does not exceed JD250,000.

The minister of public

works and housing has also been authorised to work in conjunction with other related ministries to negotiate and execute works undertaken by their respective ministries provided that each tender does not exceed JD 250,000.

Also Tuesday, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti set up a Telecommunications Advisory Committee, chaired by Minister of Post and Communications Jamal Saraireh.

He stated that the committee would serve as a liaison for various organisations related to the telecommunications sector and would offer proposals and ideas for its development.

The committee will also advise the government on how to best promote telecommunications policies as well as suggest amendments to regulations and tariffs on telephone services.

The committee groups representatives of a number of ministries and the private sector as well as the Jordanian Armed Forces.

## Reorganisation of health services scrutinised

AMMAN (Petra) — The government is proceeding with plans to expand and upgrade health services and promote preventive medicine, Prime Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti said Tuesday.

The plans will cover most nationals and particularly those from lower income levels who are covered by governmental health insurance, he added.

Speaking at a reunion of the Higher Medical Council (HMC), Mr. Kabariti said that the Ministry of Health was restructuring the country's health sector and its adjoining services, both public and private, so that citizens might be better served.

He stressed that the health sector is a basic component of the social security net which the government is determined to modernise and expand.

Following the council's meeting, Minister of Health Aref Bataineh said that the council reviewed the status of pharmaceuticals in the Kingdom and resolved that all pharmaceutical graduates must pass a uniform test before they can practise the profession.

Governmental health insurance was also examined by the council which decided that the government should expand health services to cover the largest possible number of citizens including temporary workers.

Dr. Bataineh explained that the Ministry of Health has conducted a study in conjunction with the World Bank aimed at organising and upgrading private and public health services as well as their potential cost reduction.

He said that the \$500,000 study, which was financed through donations from Japan and the World Bank, is soon expected to take effect.

The HMC is chaired by the Prime Minister and groups the ministers of health, interior, higher education, planning and finance as well as representatives of the Royal Medical Services, the Jordanian Pharmacists Association, the University of Jordan, the Jordan University of Science and Technology and the Social Security Corporation.

## Government moves to expand economic private sector

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Government moves to privatise state-owned commercial entities do not simply mean disposing of equity inasmuch as a drive to open up opportunities for the private sector leading to creating jobs and expanding economic activities, according to Planning Minister Rima Khalaf.

Privatisation of government entities is also an integral part of the economic reform programme that aims at full liberalisation of the economy, said Dr. Khalaf.

The planning minister, addressing a press briefing on Monday, also affirmed that the proceeds from the sale of government equity in commercial enterprises would not be appropriated as current expenditure but would be reinvested in projects that generate jobs and also for setting up what she described as social safety nets for the vulnerable sector of the society.

Dr. Khalaf cited the conversion of the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) as a commercial entity governed by the Companies Law and ongoing moves to commercialise and privatise the Telecommunications Corporation (TCC) as examples of the government's objectives.

"There is a philosophy behind the privatisation process," she said. "It is not simply selling the government shares in commercial entities but opening up the relevant area for private sector operators."

Such opening, she explained, means natural expansion of economic activities by the private sector, thereby creating more jobs and more contribution to the country's economic growth.

The minister noted that the focus on giving the private sector a dominant role in the economy was not a new concept but the result of efforts launched since the early 90s.

"For the first time the private sector is now allowed to enter the power sector," Dr. Khalaf said, noting that amendments to the JEA law now permits the setting up of private sector run electricity-generation plants.

Similarly, she pointed out that private operators have already entered the Kingdom's telecommunications sector. She was referring to the concessions given to companies to operate cellular phone services and radio paging facilities.

Plans call for the eventual entry of the private sector into regular phone services.

"The government's philosophy is to open up all sectors of the economy to private operators while the state will act only in a regulatory capacity to prevent monopolies and protect the interests of the public at large from exploitation," said the minister.

A package of laws being prepared by the government should be seen in this context, she told the press briefing.

The proposed laws and amendments to existing legislation include a new Companies Law, an anti-monopoly law, a law on protecting national economy, and a law on overhauling the Amman Financial Market (AFM).

Dr. Khalaf said the proceeds from the sales of government equities would be split in half, with one half going to the Jordan Investment Corporation (JIC), the state's investment arm, and the other to the treasury.

"The funds will not be absorbed

into the state budget and allocated for expenditure," affirmed the minister, adding that the JIC would use its part of the proceeds for new investments in job-creating projects while the government would focus on creating "social safety nets" for those who are adversely affected by the economic reform programme.

The government has started moves to sell its equity in the Jordan Cement Factories Company and the Ma'in hot springs spa as well as in various hotels in the Kingdom.

Addressing concerns that privatisation of state entities could also mean dismissal of excess staff by their new private sector owners, Dr. Khalaf said the government was aware of the "social impact" of the process.

But, she said, the state will ensure that no summary dismissals would take place for a predetermined period of time after the private sector acquires the entities.

"After that period, say for example five years, the operators are free to exercise their options of staff," said the minister, adding that the predetermined period would be reasonable enough for the staff to improve their efficiency to deserve continued employment or find other jobs.

While the minister did not go into the details of the proposals, other officials have explained that the government was no longer prepared to maintain a bloated civil service and did not feel that it was obliged to tolerate inefficiency in state organisations simply as a means of curtailing unemployment.

## Boy drowns in quarry pool

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The body of a teenager reported missing since late Monday, was found in a water pool in a quarry in the Yajouz District on Tuesday, according to Civil Defence Department (CDD) officials.

A CDD official said that Ala' Abdul Karim Fadel drowned while swimming with his cousins in the off-limits area on Monday evening. Officials said the youth did not know how to swim.

"His cousins fled the area and did not report the drowning incident because they were frightened," the official told the Jordan Times.

He stated that officials made a preliminary search of the quarry area but found nothing. But when officials questioned the two teenagers who were with Mr. Fadel on Monday, the boys indicated the area of the pool where they said their cousin had sunk.

CDD frogmen spent 10 hours combing one third of the pool which has a total span of two dunums (2,000-square-metres) and is 10-metres deep in some areas, before locating Ala's body "between two wheels at the bottom of the pool."

Meanwhile, Salt police apprehended a 42-year-old man who on Monday gouged out the eyes of another man during a violent brawl, according to official sources.

One source said that the victim, Billala Ahmad, 25, paid a visit to the suspect, identified as Jalal H. When others had left the premises, a fight erupted between Billala and Jalal, and "the suspect gouged Mr. Ahmad's eyes out with his fingers."

Mr. Ahmad was rushed to Ibn Al Haytham Hospital, but surgeons were unable to restore his eyesight.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### FILMS

"Moliere" (pt. II) at the French Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m.  
"How Green Was My Valley" at the British Council at 7:00 p.m.

### THIRD JORDANIAN CHILDREN'S SONG FESTIVAL

Seminar assessing the Children's Song Festival at the Royal Cultural Centre at 4:00 p.m.  
Presentation of children's songs contest at the Royal Cultural Centre at 6:00 p.m. (songs from Algeria, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syria, Iraq, Palestine, Lebanon, Egypt, Yemen, Syria and Jordan).

### LECTURES

"Jerusalem in International Law" by Speaker of Palestinian National Council Salim Aj Za'noun at Bait Al Maqdis Forum (Petra Commercial Complex near Ramada Hotel) at 6:30 p.m.

"The Role of National Institutions in Preserving the Palestinian National Identity" by Fathi Marshoud at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation, Jabal Amman at 6:30 p.m.

### EXHIBITIONS

"Water colours works by Safam Kanaan and Pia Hayes at Alia Art Gallery, Jabal Amman (Tel. 6393030, until Sept. 26).

"Works by artists from France, Algeria, Turkey, Morocco, and Egypt entitled 'Tapis Volants' at the French Cultural Centre, Jabal Weibdeh, until Sept. 24.



# Clinton wins backing of largest U.S. police union

CINCINNATI (R) — The largest U.S. Police union endorsed President Bill Clinton Monday, handing him a symbolic boost on the day Republican challenger Bob Dole unveiled his own anti-crime plan.

The 270,000-member Fraternal Order of Police (FOP), which first backed a presidential candidate in 1992 when it supported Republican George Bush, said it chose President Clinton for his positions on fighting crime and on protecting workers' rights.

President Clinton wasted no time using the endorsement to draw attention to his efforts to fight crime, flying to Ohio with FOP National President Gilbert Gallegos and addressing a campaign rally flanked by police officers.

"We support those candidates who support our fight against crime and our struggle for better working conditions, salaries and due process rights for all police officers in this country," Mr. Gallegos said as he gave President Clinton a lengthy and flattering introduction in Cincinnati.

"You have been with us the past four years and we intend to be with you the next four years," he added.

President Clinton, who has assiduously cultivated the union, attending its annual memorial for slain officers and holding a special White House meeting with its officials last week, quickly returned the compliment.

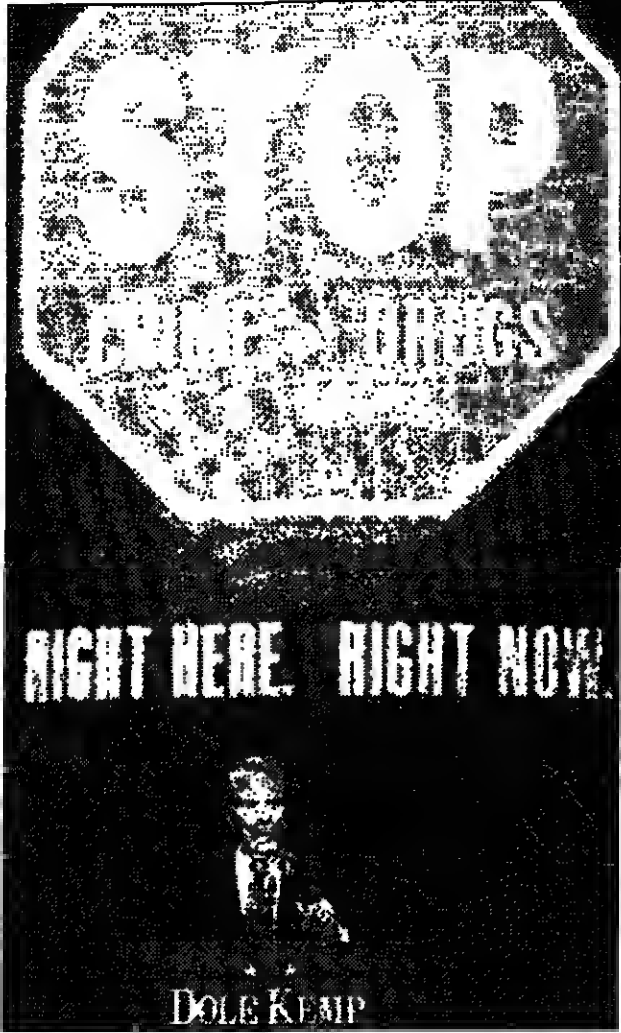
"I am very proud to have the endorsement of an organization representing 270,000 rank and file members of law enforcement who put their lives on the line every single day for the rest of us," President Clinton said to loud applause.

"If you will give us 50 more days we'll give you four more years of making our streets, our homes and our schools safer."

In an effort to emphasize his focus on crime, President Clinton Monday also proposed doubling the statute of limitation on certain violent crimes to 10 years from five.

Earlier, he got an update at the White House from Attorney General Janet Reno on federal efforts to reduce violent crime and called for using federal anti-racketeering laws to crack down on crime.

Although President Clinton's campaign officials suggested the FOP endorsement was not timed to coincide with Sen. Dole's crime speech, President Clinton's schedule Monday was



Republican presidential candidate Bob Dole talks about his plan to combat drugs and violent crime at Villanova University Monday (Reuter photo)

clearly designed to draw attention from the Republican's anti-crime package. Campaigning in Pennsylvania, Sen. Dole announced a plan to fight drugs and crime with more money for prisons, stiffer punishments for young offenders and use of the White House as a bully pulpit to foster an anti-drug public mood.

"It is time to get serious about violent crime and drugs in a way that we have not seen in our government over the last four years," Sen. Dole said in a speech at Villanova University.

President Clinton's aides could barely conceal their glee at the timing. "We had planned to do a very tough anti-crime, anti-drug message as part of this ... trip," said White House spokesman Mike McCurry. "The Dole campaign did us a favour by adjusting their schedule to fit ours."

President Clinton has made fighting crime a cornerstone of his re-election campaign, appearing across the country with police and stressing laws passed during his term. These include the 1993 Brady Bill, which imposed a five-day waiting period for handgun purchases to conduct background checks, the assault weapons ban and the 1994 crime bill.

which called for 100,000 more police on the streets. In choosing Ohio to announce the police union's support, President Clinton was also concentrating his energies on one of the handful of midwestern states that typically decide U.S. presidential elections.

President Clinton held a lead of about nine points in the latest poll conducted in Ohio, which has 21 of the 270 electoral votes needed to win the presidency, campaign officials said.

Sen. Dole said violent crime rates soared in the first two years of the Clinton administration. Drug use by teenagers more than doubled from 1992 to 1995, after falling in half in the previous 13 years, he said. He said the two are linked.

"The country is reaping the bitter harvest of what this administration's liberal policies have sowed," Sen. Dole said.

Perceiving a potential vulnerability in President Clinton's admission of having tried — but infamously not inhaled — marijuana once, and in revelations of past drug use by some White House employees, Sen. Dole has sought to highlight the issue of America's drug problem.

"I will change the mes-

sage coming from the White House," he said. "Teenagers who have been deceived into believing that drugs are something you experiment with will hear a very different message from me ... There is right and there is wrong, and drug use is wrong."

Element's of Sen. Dole's plan included:

— Using the White House to "renew our commitment to a drug-free America." Sen. Dole, who speaks nostalgically of former first lady Nancy Reagan's "Just Say No" campaign, aims to cut teenage drug use in half by the end of his first term.

The White House would assist the creation of local anti-drug organisations and encourage the entertainment media to embrace an anti-drug message.

— Doubling federal aid to states for prison construction, now about \$405 million annually, to make sure there is enough capacity for offenders to serve their full sentences. Sen. Dole would encourage states to end parole for violent criminals.

— Prosecuting as adults those juveniles older than 13 who are charged under federal laws with violent crimes and allowing sentencing courts to consider previous crimes of juvenile offenders.

— Making prisoners work 40 hours per week, with earnings going to offset cost of imprisonment and paying restitution to crime victims.

— Hastening development of an instant background check of gun purchasers.

Republican Pennsylvania Gov. Tom Ridge said of the FOP endorsement of Mr. Clinton: "By and large it's misguided and misleading. If you ask the men and women who are wearing uniforms in our communities ... you'll find most of them support Bob Dole and Jack Kemp."

This week's crime and drugs theme gives a temporary back seat to the tax-cutting economic plan which has been Sen. Dole's campaign foundation, but which has yet to generate momentum to pull him closer to President Clinton in the polls.

"We'll talk about that all week long," Sen. Dole's spokesman Nelson Warfield said of the anti-crime message.

"We think that the economic plan is still our most compelling argument," he said. "But the Clinton administration's failure in the war on crime and drugs cries out for commentary as well."



President Bill Clinton reaches to shake the hands of his supporters at the Music Hall in Cincinnati Monday. Mr. Clinton made a campaign stop in the 'Queen City' and addressed crime issues with the Fraternal Order of the Police as a backdrop (Reuter photo)

## Russia objects to pro-NATO stance in Romania-Hungary pact

MOSCOW (AFP) — Russia gave a mixed response Tuesday to a cooperation treaty signed by Romania and Hungary, saying it welcomed their intention to boost regional security but objected to their position on NATO.

A Foreign Ministry statement quoted by Interfax News Agency said the treaty signed by the prime ministers of Romania and Hungary Monday was "a sign of goodwill, the political responsibility of the two sides and their intention of making a worthy contribution to regional security."

However, the statement said Russia "cannot support the article indicating that the sides intend to back each other's efforts to integrate into NATO."

"Russia's attitude to enlargement of NATO eastward is well known in Hungary and Romania, as is the belief that our relations would only gain if this attitude were taken more fully into account," the statement added.

The governments of Romania and Hungary — both former Communist bloc countries — had been pressured to resolve their differences as a precondition to join-

ing the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO).

The treaty signed in the western Romanian city of Timisoara followed five years of tough negotiations.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin has repeatedly condemned the Western alliance's expansion plans, saying such a move could trigger a new post-cold war split in Europe and possibly even war.

NATO plans to hold a summit next year to launch expansion. U.S. President Bill Clinton has said he hopes it will be the most "historic" meeting in the alliance's history.

Russian Defence Minister Igor Rodionov will attend an informal meeting with NATO defence ministers in Bergen, Norway, on Sept. 25-26, Interfax reported, quoting a source close to Gen. Rodionov.

It will be his first visit abroad since he was appointed defence minister in July.

The NATO meeting will focus on the future of the NATO-led Implementation Force (IFOR) troops in Bosnia, whose mandate expires in December. Russian troops are serving with IFOR.

## Pope, Reagan had 'secret alliance' against Soviet Union — book

NEW YORK (R) — Pope John Paul II and former U.S. President Ronald Reagan established an informal "secret alliance" to bring about the fall of communism, according to a new book co-authored by Watergate investigative reporter Carl Bernstein.

The book, *His Holiness: John Paul II And The Hidden History Of Our Time*, by Mr. Bernstein and Italian journalist Marco Politi, claims that Mr. Reagan and his Central Intelligence Agency Chief William Casey traded sensitive intelligence information with the Polish-born Pontiff because they viewed the 20 block-long Vatican as a "spiritual superpower."

The book, which will be published this week by Doubleday, also says that the Reagan administration secretly spent \$50 million to keep Solidarity, Poland's independent trade union organisation, alive from 1982 to 1989.

The Pope was kept informed, although he was careful not to learn too many of the details, the book said.

Mr. Bernstein and Mr. Politi did not draw a conclusion as to whether the Soviet Union or Communist

Bulgaria was behind the assassination attempt on the Pope's life in 1981, but the book said Mr. Casey and the Pope's closest aides were convinced that Bulgaria was involved — an idea rejected by the Pontiff.

The authors said the Pope did not want to see investigations pursued out of fear that if the Soviet Union was involved it would throw international relations into a hopeless crisis.

They quote the Pope as telling a close friend, "whoever was responsible was literally doing the work of the devil. It doesn't interest me because it was the devil who did this thing and the devil can conspire in 1,000 ways ..."

But the authors said they obtained top secret Soviet documents that detailed increased Soviet preoccupation with the Pope and the frustration of Soviet leaders with Poland for not cracking down on the Catholic Church in the weeks preceding the assassination attempt by Turkish gunman Mehmet Ali Agca.

After the attempt, the Pope ordered the statue of the Fatima Virgin brought to the Vatican where he prayed before it, asking for

the liberation of the Soviet Union from atheism.

The book said: "Beginning in the spring of 1981, the Reagan administration maintained an intelligence shuttle at the highest level between the White House and the Pope, who was regularly briefed by Mr. Casey and Vernon Walters, a former CIA deputy director. Between them Gen. Walters and Mr. Casey secretly visited the Pope about 15 times over a six-year period to discuss matters of mutual importance."

It added that the Pope received "some of America's most carefully guarded secrets and sophisticated political analysis: Information from satellites, from intelligence agencies, from electronic eavesdropping, from political discussions at the White House, State Department and CIA. And the United States received information from the Pope."

The book also said that during this period of Vatican-U.S. collaboration, the Reagan administration reinforced the Pope's opposition to abortion by blocking funds for family planning programmes around the world.

## Mother Teresa cheerful as brain scan shows no damage after fall

CALCUTTA, India (R) — Mother Teresa was alert and cheerful and her health was stable Tuesday as she recovered from a fall the previous day, doctors attending to the revered missionary said.

"Mother Teresa's general condition is stable. She is alert and cheerful, there is no neurological deficit and she is being kept under observation," a medical bulletin said.

Doctors attending to the Roman Catholic nun, who is 86, had said earlier in the day that a suspected spot had been found on her brain. But they later said there was no cause for alarm.

"CT (brain) scan results show nothing significant or alarming. We will keep her under observation for two or three days," said Dr. S.K. Sen, medical director at Calcutta's Woodlands Nursing Home.

"But as you know, she always insists on returning home. We may have to release her earlier. Another CT scan will be done within a week," he added.

Doctors said the nun had fallen from a

chair Monday, not from a bed as thought earlier. "She was writing a letter on her desk and when she tried to get up from the chair, she slipped," a nun told Reuters.

The missionary, known as the "saint of the gutters" for her devotion to the poor and destitute, was admitted to the same hospital on Aug. 20 with heart trouble, malaria and pneumonia. She was released 18 days later and told to rest in bed.

"Her condition is stable, but we are going to observe her for some more days," A.K. Bardhan, the hospital's leading heart expert, said earlier in the day.

On Monday, doctors said Mother Teresa continued to have an irregular heart beat, which she has suffered since her stay in the hospital in late August and early September. "Her cardiac irregularity is still there, but that is nothing alarming," Sen said.

Mother Teresa, who was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979, was fitted with a cardiac pacemaker in 1989.

## Monaco's Stephanie files for divorce

MONTE CARLO (R) — Monaco's Princess Stephanie filed for divorce from her husband and former bodyguard Daniel Ducruet Monday after Italian magazines printed pictures of his sex romp with a Belgian stripper, her lawyer said. Lawyer Thierry Lacoste's office said in a brief statement that Princess Stephanie, 31, glamorous daughter of Prince Rainier and the late actress Grace Kelly, had begun divorce proceedings after a reconciliation meeting was unsuccessful Sunday. The princess wrote to her father, as ruler of the tiny Riviera principality, and he was expected to refer the suit to the Monaco Court of Revision, which is likely to issue a final divorce ruling within three to five weeks, Mr. Lacoste said. The latest upheaval in the Monaco royal family came just before the Grimaldi family celebrates 700 years in power next year, claiming to be the longest-serving European royal dynasty. Prince Rainier long opposed Princess Stephanie's relationship with Mr. Ducruet, a former fish merchant and bodyguard, but finally accepted him into the family last year for the sake of their two children, Louis and Pauline, aged three and two. However, Italian magazines published explicit photographs last month of a naked Ducruet, 32, cavorting with a former "Miss Topless Belgium," 26-year-old dancer and model Fily Houteman. The magazine Eva Tremila and its sister publication Gente printed pages of pictures of Ms. Houteman undressing Mr. Ducruet, the pair entwined on a sunbed and finally both naked by a poolside. French media reported that Mr. Ducruet had flown to Morocco to avoid publicity after a public row with Princess Stephanie, which was photographed and published in glossy French magazines.

## Runaway boy disappears again

LONDON (AFP) — A 15-year-old British boy who flew 7,000 miles to Malaysia using his father's passport and credit card last year has vanished from home again, police announced Tuesday. Peter Kerry hit the headlines in February last year when he made the Malaysian trip after a family argument over spaghetti, and was only found after a six-day worldwide search. Now he has run away from home again, this time taking his own passport, some money and a change of clothing. Police believe Peter is heading for Europe and they said they were "increasingly concerned" for his safety. The teenager, who has a skinhead haircut, was last seen early Sunday when he set off from home in Harrow, North London, on a paper round on his bicycle. He did not return home. Peter, who wants to become an airline pilot, has run away from home several times before, once to Paris and another time to Edinburgh. He took off for the Far East last year while his parents, brother Michael, 12, and sister Helen, nine, were out watching a football match, after he had broken into a locked steel cabinet to take his father's passport. A search was launched involving police, Interpol and the British High Commission.

## Naomi Campbell weds in secret

LONDON (AFP) — British supermodel Naomi Campbell, 26, secretly married Italian clothier Luca Orlandi, 32, in Mauritius three weeks ago, press reports said here Monday. Orlandi, who owns a boutique in New York, met Ms. Campbell at a party earlier this year, said the reports, which added she had shared the news of her wedding with friends earlier but swore them to secrecy.

## At least 51 MPs to join Japan's new party

TOKYO (AFP) — Japan's new Liberal Party, which intended to contest next elections, is poised to attract at least 51 lower house members, the Yomiuri Shimbun said Tuesday.

The newspaper said a survey found 33 members of the Social Democratic Party (SDP) and seven of the New Party Sakigake had said they were likely to join the new "democratic party" in addition to 11 small opposition members who had already decided to join.

SDP and Sakigake are part of the three-party ruling coalition, with Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's Liberal Democratic Party being the main force.

Mr. Hashimoto is widely expected to dissolve the 511-seat lower house of parliament in late September for a snap election in October.

The looming election has focused attention on the new party which may be led by Health Minister Naoto Kan, Sakigake vice president and one of the most popular politicians in the country, and his former party colleague Yukio Hatoyama.

Mr. Kan, Mr. Hatoyama and two other promoters of

the new party — Mr. Hatoyama's younger brother Kunio Hatoyama and SDP lawmaker Tomiko Okazaki — will set up a preparatory committee to launch the democratic party.

Kunio Hatoyama said he expected the number of new party members to be between 35 and 40, according to the Yomiuri, while another major daily, the Nihon Keizai Shimbun, quoted Mr. Kan as telling reporters Monday that about 40 parliament members may join the committee at the time of the launch.

According to the Yomiuri, some SDP members said they would make their decision after the SDP officially decides at a national meeting next Monday on its policy on joining the new party.

The new party hopes to challenge the LDP, which has 206 seats in parliament, and the opposition conservative group, the New Frontier Party, which has 167 seats.

Leading SDP members planning to join the new party include Management and Coordination Agency Director-General Sekisuke Nakunishi, Labor Minister Takanobu Nagai and Post and Telecommunications Minister Ichiro Hino, it said.

## Hashimoto apologises for neglecting Okinawa issue

TOKYO (R) — Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto Tuesday apologised for having neglected the problems of Okinawa and renewed his pledge to trim U.S. bases on the island during a brief visit to Japan's southernmost prefecture.

"I must admit and apologise on behalf of the Japanese people for not making enough efforts to understand the historical burden and feelings of the Okinawa people," Mr. Hashimoto told government officials in Okinawa.

Some 250 local officials, including Okinawa Governor Masahide Ota, heard the prime minister speak in the city of Ginowan, home to the U.S. Futenma Air Base, which the central government was looking to relocate as part of a U.S.-Japan agreement reached in April.

Mr. Hashimoto renewed his pledge to implement the April agreement with U.S. President Bill Clinton to reduce the amount of land occupied by U.S. bases by one-fifth.

He revealed in his speech a recent proposal by Washington to jointly research the possibility of building an offshore heliport for Futenma Air Base

to move into.

The April agreement called for functions on Futenma to be relocated to other U.S. bases in Okinawa and Yamaguchi prefectures in exchange for returning land used by the air base, but local residents had strongly opposed the idea.

During his visit accompanied by a high-powered team of economic ministers, Mr. Hashimoto also vowed to promote economic development in Okinawa, Japan's poorest prefecture with an average income half the level of Tokyo's.

"I will make the utmost effort to tackle the Okinawa issue with the thoughts of the governor and Okinawa people on my mind," Mr. Hashimoto said.

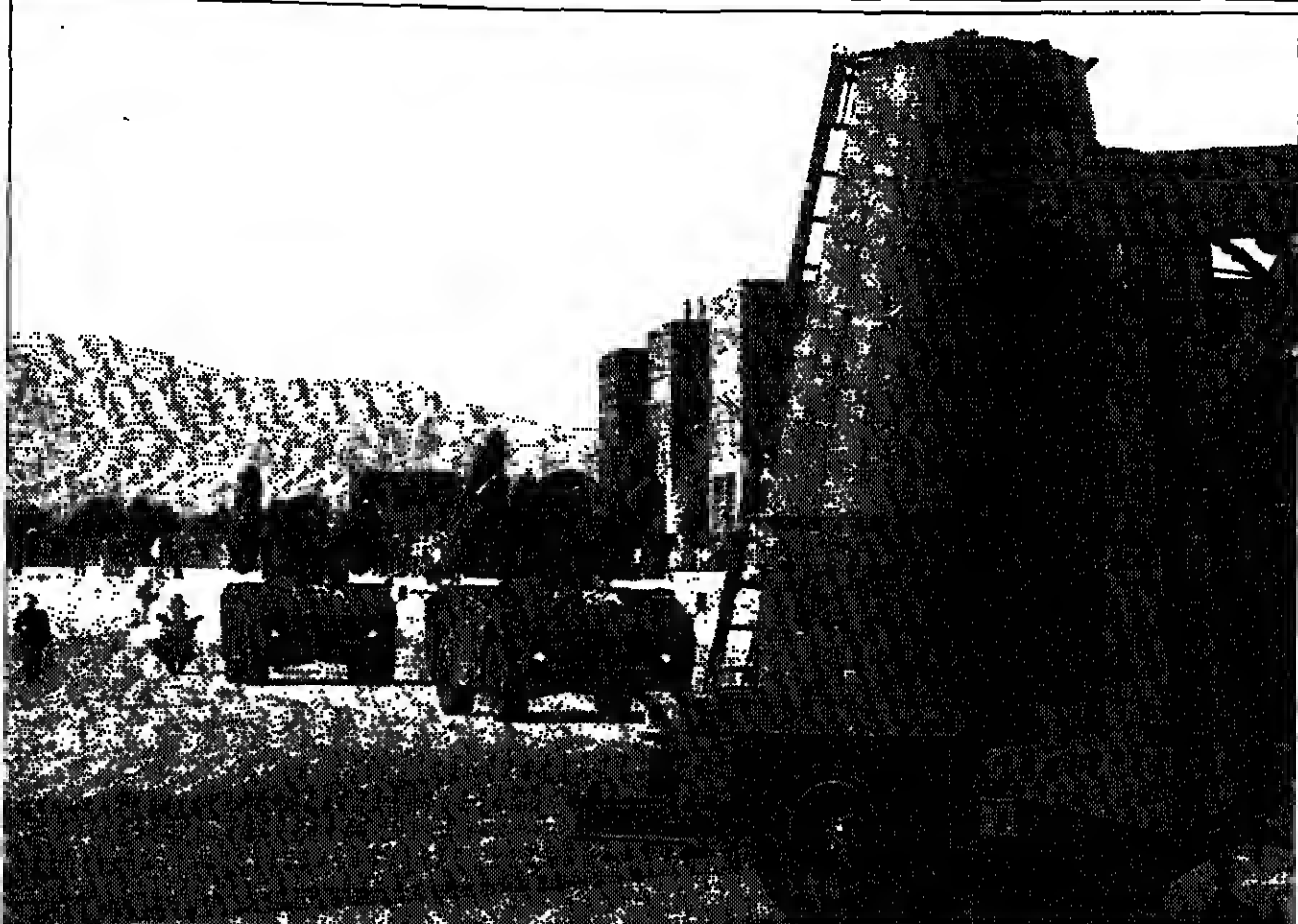
Prior to Mr. Hashimoto's departure Tuesday, the cabinet formally launched a special government commission to work on reducing the scale of the U.S. forces and to plan long-term development schemes for the island.

After the one-day trip, Mr. Hashimoto is expected to huddle with top officials from his three-party ruling coalition and set a date for a general election.

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Monaco's  
Stephanie files  
for divorce



French soldiers drive a mobile radar unit near a truck used to carry nuclear heads after a ceremony which marks the end of a 25-year doomsday watch at the nearby Plateau d'Albion underground launch base. France shuts down its 18 S3D land-based nuclear missiles which were poised for launch from silos buried beneath scenic Provence countryside in southeastern France (Reuters photo)

## Lebed in Chechnya to iron out problems in implementing peace deal

MOSCOW (R) — Russian security chief Alexander Lebed flew in to Chechnya Tuesday for talks with army commanders and separatist leaders to try to iron out problems in implementing a peace deal he signed with the rebels last month.

Interfax News Agency quoted Gen. Lebed, who is President Boris Yeltsin's personal envoy to the region, as saying his main aim was to clarify plans for a provisional administration in the region that would bring together pro- and anti-Moscow factions.

Gen. Lebed, who held talks with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin at the weekend, also said he planned to "take a look at the turbulence" over the past week between Russian generals and the separatists over the exchange of prisoners and withdrawal of troops.

He was to meet the commander of Russian forces in Chechnya, General Vyacheslav Tikhomirov, and other military leaders at the Khankala army base near Grozny in the morning and planned to meet rebel Chief-of-Staff Aslan Maskhadov at the village of Novye Atagi in the afternoon.

Gen. Lebed said he might also meet separatist leader Zelimkhan Yandarbiyev and also visit Russian troops currently patrolling Grozny jointly with separatist forces.

Under the peace deal signed by Gen. Lebed and Commander Maskhadov on Aug. 31, Russian troops were supposed to be withdrawn from Chechnya and prisoners handed over by both sides. Gen. Tikhomirov halted the pullout almost as soon as it started last week, claiming the rebels were breaking the agreement.

Commander Maskhadov accused the general of brinkmanship.

Gen. Lebed dismissed rumours of an imminent attack on Grozny by forces loyal to pro-Moscow Chechen leader Dokka Zavgayev but told Interfax that such talk showed the urgency of bringing the factions together in a coalition to avoid the mainly Muslim region collapsing into Afghan-style chaos.

Mr. Zavgayev himself, however, told ITAR-TASS news agency in Moscow it was too early to talk about a coalition, repeating his complaint that Russia had yet to properly define the new administration's tasks.

But an official of a largely pro-separatist assembly of Chechen political movements told TASS his body had already set up a 20-member coalition cabinet.

Gen. Lebed said he would also discuss setting up a "joint commission" in the near future, whose job would be to administer federal funds to rebuild Chechnya after

nearly two years of war.

The Russian military said a command post in the town of Argun was shot at overnight and troops returned fire. But no soldiers were hurt and the night was otherwise calm across the region.

Gen. Lebed said in an interview published Tuesday that about \$2 billion sent by Moscow for the reconstruction of the ruins in Chechnya have been stolen in the last 18 months.

Gen. Lebed, the top negotiator for ending the war in Chechnya, said in Komsomolskaya Pravda newspaper that the bulk of the money delivered to the authorities installed by Russian troops in Grozny had disappeared.

"Last year eight trillion rubles were delivered and this year two and a half trillion. That's 10.5 trillion rubles (\$2 billion). Of course, nothing has been restored," he said. "Ninety per cent of the money has been stolen."

Gen. Lebed said there were no hard figures yet, but estimated that "about \$12 to \$15 billion have been spent on the war," which began in December 1994, when President Boris Yeltsin ordered the army to restore Russian rule.

He did not say who he thought had siphoned off the Chechen reconstruction money.

Gen. Lebed has said that more than 40,000 homes have been totally destroyed in the 21-month war, in which Russian army troops, tanks, airplanes and helicopters have tried to crush an independence rebellion in the Muslim republic.

In May, the news magazine Itogi quoted senior Russian officials as saying that more than \$2 billion allocated for reconstruction in 1995 alone was spent illegally.

In February the Federal Audit Chamber, responsible for monitoring government spending, completed a probe into federal allocations for reconstruction in the breakaway north Caucasus republic.

The investigators quoted by Itogi found that 12.3 trillion rubles (\$2.46 billion) was spent on reconstruction in Chechnya up to Dec. 31, 1995, but there was "no legal basis" for the allocation of 11.2 trillion rubles (\$2.25 billion).

The audit chamber, which is independent of the government, said it could not track down what happened to all the funds due to the continuing war in Chechnya.

Officials said that humanitarian aid, including medicine, food and clothing had been sold off before ever reaching Chechnya.

Large amounts of money were also allegedly deposited in banks without being used for aid.

## Cambodian flag flies over former rebel base

PHNOM PENH (AFP) — The Cambodian flag flew over the former Khmer Rouge base of Pailin for the first time in more than two years Tuesday as breakaway rebel leaders and government commanders met to discuss integrating the renegades into Phnom Penh's fold, a participant said.

The flag — blue and red stripes with a depiction of Angkor Wat in white superimposed — was raised in a ceremony before the meeting began as a symbol of "solidarity and friendship," said General Hul Savan, the commander of Military Region 5 and one of the government negotiators.

He described the meeting as "fruitful" but declined to give details about the results.

Earlier Tuesday, Co-Minister Of Defence Tea Banh said the aim of the meeting was "to push forward the integration of (Khmer Rouge and government) forces and territory."

The meeting came just three days after King Norodom Sihanouk granted a pardon to faction leader Ieng Sary who had demanded the amnesty before the convening of further peace talks aimed at a permanent ceasefire agreement.

The government side was expected to push for specific information regarding the numbers and locations of guerrillas loyal to Ieng Sary and then assist in drawing up plans to secure them and their families from attacks by hardline Khmer Rouge, officials said.

Since the Khmer Rouge split last month, the actual number of fighters who have broken away from the hardline rebel leadership has been unclear, with estimates from various sources ranging from 1,000 to 4,000.

Also under discussion at the meeting will be the promotion of the guerrillas to military ranks consistent with their status in the Khmer Rouge's National Army of Democratic Kampuchea, the officials said.

Tuesday's trip to Pailin marks the first time since 1994 that senior officers from Phnom Penh have travelled to the guerrillas' main economic base.

The Royal Cambodian Armed Forces briefly took Pailin that year but were driven out shortly afterwards when the rebels launched a major counter-offensive.

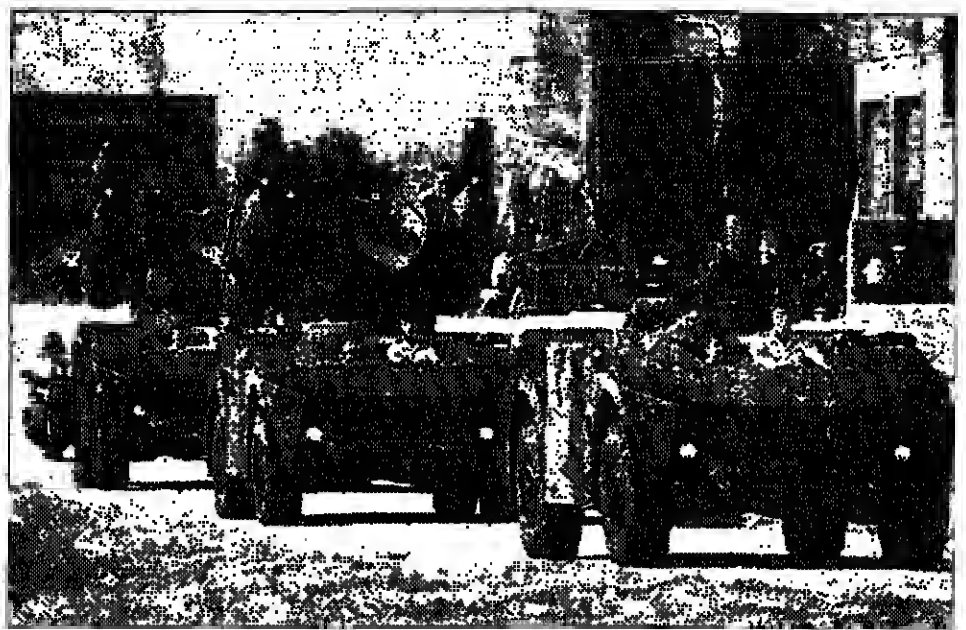
Plans to return Pailin and Phnom Malai, the other major guerrilla base controlled by the breakaway faction, to civilian control are also to be discussed by the working group.

## France closes down land-based nuclear missile base in Provence

APT. France (R) — France ended a 25-year doomsday watch Monday, shutting down 18 land-based nuclear missiles at an underground launch base and leaving its nuclear defence solely to weapons aboard submarines and bombers.

"We are turning a page in history. Today is going to be a bit rough and a bit emotional, but at the end of it we will have the pleasure of knowing that our mission was successful," said General Jean Rannou, air force chief of staff.

"This has not been 25 wasted years but 25 years of peace," he said at a ceremony at Saint-Christol, headquarters of the First Strategic Missiles Group.



Trucks with radar and 'Crotale' mobile missiles parade during ceremonies which mark the end of nuclear alert in France (Reuters photo)

The process of closing down the base at the Plateau d'Albion is part of defence spending cuts ordered by President Jacques Chirac.

It began when two pairs of officers, in separate bunkers 40 kilometres apart, handed back keys and launch codes that would have enabled them to fire the missiles on direct orders from Mr. Chirac.

Each of the 18 S3D missile had been equipped with a one-megatonne warhead and had a range of 3,500 kilometres, far enough to strike Moscow or beyond.

It will take two years and nearly 400 million francs (\$77.5 million) for the missiles and their silos, buried beneath the scenic Provence countryside in southeastern France, to be completely dismantled.

Mr. Chirac has already decided to dismantle short-range Hades nuclear missiles in a restructuring after the cold war.

The missiles had been in place since 1971, a symbol of the independence of France's nuclear strike force.

Mr. Chirac decided last year to close the site, but the news was overshadowed by his simultaneous announcement that France was resuming nuclear tests in the South Pacific. The six tests ended in January after a torrent of criticism from around the world.

By coincidence, the base's closure coincided with a visit to Paris by Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer Monday to repair

ties strained by the nuclear testing row.

Communities near the Albion base are worried about the economic impact its closure will have on the area's economy but Defence Minister Charles Millon has promised no jobs will be eliminated.

Gen. Rannou said the base may eventually become a training centre for commandos or pilots of Franco-German Tiger combat helicopters, or an electronic intelligence listening post.

## Bhutto urges India to stop blocking test ban pact

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto called on neighboring India Tuesday to drop its opposition to the global nuclear test ban treaty, but said Islamabad could not sign the pact until New Delhi did the same.

"Given our own security concerns, we are not in a position to sign unless India does," but we urge India to "review its approach" and to "go with the rest of the world," she told Reuters in an interview.

India, a threshold nuclear power like Pakistan, has refused to endorse the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) because the five declared nuclear powers — the United States, Russia, China, France and Britain — have not agreed on a timetable for nuclear disarmament.

The U.N. General Assembly overwhelmingly endorsed the CTBT last week. But India vowed it would never sign or ratify the agreement and would thus prevent it from coming into force.

Pakistan and India both deny possessing nuclear weapons, but say they have the capacity to make them.

Describing the CTBT as one of the most significant developments of the post-cold war era, Ms Bhutto said Pakistan fully supported a global approach to nuclear non-proliferation.

"Some short-sighted elements in the sub-continent, in India and Pakistan, have opposed CTBT, saying that the West has a greater arsenal and we are lagging behind."

"But I often say that it is not a fair world and if we don't get around to the business of putting an end to the



Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto makes a point during an interview with Reuters at her residence in Islamabad Tuesday (Renter photo)

weapons of mass destruction then the gap is going to continue to increase."

She said India, which exploded a nuclear device in 1974, should reject any pressure from its scientific or military community to carry out a second nuclear test, suggesting that computer simulation could provide an adequate alternative.

"The computers are still

there and the scientists will continue to play with computers if they want to," she said.

"I would urge India not to complicate the situation in the continent and put pressure on other countries that are resisting pressures of their own by indulging in any act that can be misconstrued as an act of adventure," she declared.

India and Pakistan have

been at odds since they won independence from Britain in 1947, fighting three wars, two of them over the disputed Himalayan territory of Kashmir.

Ms Bhutto, condemning "so-called elections" taking place this month in Indian-ruled Kashmir, did not rule out a resumption of long-stalled peace talks between India and Pakistan.

"I hope we would be able to assess the situation after the elections are concluded and then take a decision," she said. "It all depends on the aftermath of the so-called elections." Seven previous elections have not won over the Kashmiri people so an exercise for an eighth election seems rather futile," she said.

India says Kashmir, of which it rules two thirds and Pakistan the rest, is an integral part of its territory.

Islamabad wants mainly Muslim Kashmir to be allowed to vote whether to join Islamic Pakistan or Hindu-majority India.

New Delhi said Monday the second leg of state elections in Indian-ruled Kashmir was generally peaceful, but separatist groups opposing the polls accused authorities of coercion.

The first day of voting in other areas of the state was on Sept. 7, and the last two days will be on Sept. 21 and 30. The results are expected in the first week of October.

The state, torn by a six-year separatist revolt, is holding its first assembly elections since 1987. The last assembly was dissolved in 1990 after an outbreak of rebellion in which more than 20,000 people have died.

## Former Indian minister arrested in corruption case

NEW DELHI (R) — Indian police arrested a former cabinet minister wanted in a corruption case as he flew in from London, dealing what local media called a fresh blow to the Congress Party still reeling from its general election loss.

Former Communications Minister Sukh Ram was detained by Federal Police at New Delhi's International Airport late Monday, minutes after he arrived in the Indian capital on a flight from London, authorities said Tuesday.

Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI) spokesman S.M. Khan said the Federal Police Agency would question Mr. Sukh Ram about the discovery of more than \$1 million in cash stashed in his homes.

Mr. Sukh Ram, who has

denied the corruption accusations, was out of the country when CBI agents raided his homes last month. He has said he was seeking overseas treatment for heart trouble.

Ambulances from two hospitals were waiting at the airport when Mr. Sukh Ram emerged from the Air India aircraft in a wheelchair, witnesses said. He was whisked to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) and was put under CBI custody, Mr. Khan said.

"I am innocent," the Indian Express newspaper quoted Mr. Sukh Ram as saying when he arrived at the state hospital. "I am not feeling well. I am having pain in the heart."

The CBI spokesman said that on Tuesday Mr. Sukh

Ram would appear in court for remand proceedings or, if doctors found him unfit, face a magistrate in hospital. Then investigators would question him, Mr. Khan said.

Mr. Sukh Ram served in the cabinet of former Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao, whose Congress Party was humiliated in general elections which ended in May. As communications minister, he spearheaded an ambitious drive to end the government's monopoly over telephone services.

The CBI has accused him of pocketing kickbacks from a private firm which sold the government radio equipment, causing the loss of some 16.8 million rupees (\$470,000) to the federal exchequer. But Federal Police have not filed charges.



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## Change of heart in Washington

PRESIDENT BILL Clinton's declaration Monday that Washington did not seek a confrontation with Iraqi President Saddam Hussein is a clear signal that the U.S. policy on Iraq is going through a process of transformation. "We have sought no confrontation with Saddam Hussein. We never did and we don't now," Mr. Clinton was quoted as telling reporters at the White House on Monday. Mr. Clinton's remarks were also matched by other senior administration officials who all repeated that the U.S. wished only to "contain and constrain" the Iraqi regime. What is most interesting about President Clinton's statement is his denial of present or previous intentions on the part of his administration to depose the Iraqi leader.

There is no doubt that the break-up within the U.S.-led international coalition against the Iraq has a lot to do with the change of heart in Washington. France and Russia came out strongly against the recent U.S. redeployment of force against Iraq. Both countries, who in 1991 formed the backbone of the coalition that drove Iraq out of Kuwait, openly questioned the legality and legitimacy of last week's U.S. military actions against Iraqi military targets in southern Iraq. The Russian ambassador to Baghdad even questioned the conformity of Washington's decision to extend the no-fly zone in southern Iraq with relevant U.N. Security Council resolutions. This disapproval of U.S. moves against Iraq also spread to several other European and Arab capitals. The European Union openly chided Washington on its recent moves against Baghdad. Cairo openly rejected the recent military moves against Iraq and Riyadh refused to allow the use of its territory to launch an attack on Iraq. Even Kuwait reluctantly accepted to host additional U.S. troops. Turkey, a key member of NATO, also ruled out the use of its territory to strike at Iraq whether in the north or in the south. Several African, Latin American and Asian capitals joined the bandwagon of opposition. The cracks in the anti-Iraq coalition has become too obvious and wide to ignore. Only London lent unequivocal support to Washington's policies.

Iraq also appears, so far, to have played its cards well. Moving its army into the Kurdish region in support of one Kurdish faction did not violate any Security Council resolution. Backing down its threat to shoot at U.S. warplanes flying in the no-fly zones was also a timely move by Iraq.

All these developments paint a new picture of the way the international community, especially the Arab World, would like to deal with Iraq. In essence the new emerging international and Arab tone is making a clear distinction between Iraq as a sovereign country entitled to international respect for its territorial integrity and an end to the sufferings of its people on the one hand and the nature of the Baghdad regime. The international community is coming closer to the conclusion that the current situation in Iraq cannot continue any longer and if it did it would lead to the fragmentation of that country and to a wider conflict that will engulf the whole region from Turkey in the north to the Gulf in the south.

What we are bound to see in the coming few months, but probably not before November, is an increased American willingness to talk to the Iraqi leadership and to seek an end to the volatile situation that threatens peace and stability in the Near East.

## ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A WRITER for Al Rai Tuesday commented on the outcome of the Arab foreign ministers' meeting in Cairo where they discussed two questions: The situation in Iraq and the Israeli intransigence with regard to the requirements of peace. Although the Arabs did not refer to the United States and its behaviour as being behind the cause of tension in the Gulf, the Arab ministers stressed that they stand opposed to any interference from any country in Iraq's internal affairs, said Mahmoud Rimawi. It is clear that by avoiding to mention the United States by name, the Arabs wanted to avert any confrontation with the Americans over the Iraqi issue, said the writer, but on the whole, the Arabs have shown their solidarity with Iraq and reaffirmed their position in support of Iraq's sovereignty and territorial integrity. On the question of Israel's intransigence, the writer said the Arab ministers have unanimously agreed to link their future relations with Israel to progress in the peace process and so they have reaffirmed the recommendations passed by their leaders at the Cairo summit last June. The writer stressed that the Arabs have once again showed the world that they are committed to genuine and lasting peace but he said at the same time they displayed their determination to stand firmly in opposition of Israel's settlements programmes which create new tensions in the region. The writer said that the Arabs hope that the United States will divert its attention from confrontation with Iraq in the Gulf to pressuring Israel into accepting the principle of just peace.

## Washington Watch

# Between Iraq and the right wing

By Dr. James Zogby

THE UNRAVELLING of the situation in northern Iraq has been matched by the unravelling of bi-partisan support for the president's Iraq policy.

Following Saddam Hussein's initial foray into Erbil, Republican criticism of Clinton was quite harsh. He was chided for being "weak and wavering" in the conduct of foreign policy and was taunted for what was termed an "ineffective Iraq policy" that Republicans claimed had emboldened the Iraqi leader to test U.S. resolve.

As Clinton mobilised U.S. forces, struck Iraqi targets, and expanded the no-fly zone, his partisan critics were silenced — but only for a while.

Allowing their presidential candidate to appear to be above the fray, Republican vice presidential candidate Jack Kemp and a number of Republican senators and congressmen have, in past weeks, stepped up their attack on President Clinton.

The administration's response to Saddam's move northward was admittedly limited, but they had hoped firm enough to send a message both to Baghdad and to domestic critics. The expansion of the no-fly zone and the targeting of Iraqi radar and communications facilities in the south were designed to discourage further movement by the Iraqi regime. The administration had little interest in provoking a reaction among its Arab coalition partners and apparently saw no advantage in becoming directly engaged in hostilities in the northern conflict.

The Baghdad regime, smelling success in the north and sensing the possibility of achieving some public relations gains in the broader international arena, has apparently decided to up the ante with verbal and military provocations.

With the continuing chess game in Iraq being played out on nightly television and in front page headlines, Republicans have now ended their two-week-long silence. They are gambling that they can use the Iraq situation as a campaign issue to challenge what they are terming the president's weak and reactive foreign policy.

The first to draw blood was Bob Dole. Although he had been silent for over a week following the U.S. bombing of southern Iraq, on September 10 the Republican candidate issued a statement noting that "reports of continued

strife and killings in north Iraq... raise questions about whether the administration's strategy has advanced U.S. interests."

Before the U.S. strike Dole had issued much harsher criticism chiding the administration's failure to take action to bring an end to Saddam Hussein. Once U.S. military engagement began, Dole led the bi-partisan support for the president. Now that the Republican presidential nominee has signalled that criticism of the president is fair game, the floodgates of criticism have opened.

Republican vice presidential nominee Jack Kemp slammed the administration starting that: "There is a lot of vacillation and a failure by the president to clearly define the objective... (of) how he intends to carry out the mission in the Persian Gulf and getting Saddam Hussein and (brutal treatment of Kurds) to end; how can he get the U.N. commission weapons inspection teams back into Iraq."

Other Republicans soon joined the attack. Speaking at a hastily convened hearing before Congress, James Baker, former Secretary of State under George Bush, criticised the Clinton administration for not hitting Saddam harder. "Iraq under Saddam Hussein only understands force. More to the point, it only understands overwhelming force."

Following on this theme, Senator Richard Lugar, a Republican member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee called on the administration to "conduct raids that would hobble any air power, air defences, communications and intelligence. I would not put Baghdad off limits."

At the same time, and in a somewhat contradictory vein, the Republicans are also criticising the president for failing to maintain our Gulf war coalition. Kemp, for example, decried the fact that "our alliances are in disarray and support for the mission is at risk because our policy is vague and unrealistic."

The apparent purpose of this political assault, while seeking to score political points domestically against the Democratic president, is also to goad the administration into a full-scale assault on Iraq.

The dangers to the White House are real. The president is caught between Iraq and the right wing — between Saddam's testing and Republican taunting. So far domestically, public opinion is two to one in support of the administration's handling of Iraq. And yet the longer the pressure continues to mount and the more aggressive the regime in Baghdad becomes, the more problematic the entire situation becomes for the White House.

Serious questions must be asked. What would the impact of any escalation be on our Arab allies, Arab public opinion, and the internal situation in Iraq? Would an assault on Iraq accomplish any meaningful objective? What is the goal and/or the long-term policy? Would the American public be prepared to accept full-scale hostilities?

With all these in mind, the administration has sought, thus far, to pursue a more prudent and limited course than that being called for by its Republican critics. It is for this reason that the president has correctly called for a full-scale policy review of U.S. policy towards Iraq.

There are too many questions to answer and vital interests at stake to allow either the Iraqi regime or the Republican Party to press the administration into precipitous action with unpredictable outcomes.

## Russia: The art of recovery

By Gwynne Dyer

IN A coronary bypass operation, like the one that Russian President Boris Yeltsin must undergo at the end of this month, the odds on survival are 97 or 98 per cent. The odds that the peace pact recently signed by General Alexander Lebed in Chechnya will hold are 75 per cent or better. And the odds on a stable, democratic, prosperous Russia in the 21st century are better than ever.

And that despite the fact that 37 million of Russia's 146 million people do not earn enough to support their families, despite death toll from organised crime last year that exceeded total Russian military losses in Afghanistan and despite a 28 per cent fall in living standards since 1990, and a 50 per cent fall in industrial output.

It does not matter. The United States experienced similar falls in production, comparable social calamities, and even an equivalent growth of organised crime during the Depression and Prohibition years of the 1930s, and its democracy survived. What counts is the politics, and Russia is getting that right.

"They have found something wrong with my heart," Yeltsin told Russian television viewers on Sept. 5 to the vast surprise of practically nobody. But the good news was that the particular

thing wrong with Yeltsin's heart, narrowed arteries, is relatively easily corrected by bypass surgery.

It is major surgery — up to five hours on the table while blood from the heart and lungs is diverted to a bypass machine — but the procedure is well-proven, and Yeltsin will almost certainly be freed from the "colossal fatigue" that forced him to go into virtual seclusion after the first round of the spring elections.

In half the beneficiaries of this kind of surgery, there are new problems with narrowed arteries within ten years, but Yeltsin is prevented by the constitution from running for the presidency again in the year 2000 anyway. In the meantime, after a convalescence of two to three months, he will be back on the scene, as vigorous and mischievous as ever.

This is not unadulterated good news for Russia, of course, but on balance it is preferable. Indecisive and erratic as he is, Boris Yeltsin is nevertheless a legitimate focus of authority, and at the moment Russia needs that much more than it needs a heroic leader.

He will be around for at least a couple of years more, and he will be much more like the Boris Yeltsin of 1990-91 than the pathetic, almost invisible figure of recent months. This may not solve a single one of Russia's problems, but at

least it will preclude another presidential election soon, and block far more sinister characters from imposing their "solutions" instead.

Then there is Alexander Lebed, the former general who came third in the first round of Russia's presidential election and then joined Yeltsin's camp, "bringing with him the votes needed to guarantee victory over the communists. "I am the man who can stop the war in Chechnya," he said last September — and he has.

To be fair to the Chechens, they won their independence war by their own efforts. For lightly armed guerrilla troops to take back and hold their capital city in the teeth of everything the imperial power could throw at them, as the Chechens have done in Grozny in the past month, is virtually unprecedented in military history.

Even against troops as demoralised and badly trained as those of the Russian Interior Ministry, it was a stunning achievement.

But the Russians, though beaten, had the resources to go on fighting for months or even years, further inflating a casualty toll that Lebed recently estimated at 90,000 dead. It is his achievement that Russia bit the bullet and signed a ceasefire that effectively grants Chechnya independence, even if the final negotiations on that topic are postponed for five

years. Can he make the deal stick, against the opposition of rivals within Yeltsin's camp and of ultra-nationalist and communist opponents outside it? If anybody can, he can, for he has already proven his own nationalist bona fides in "defending the rights of the Russian minority in the ex-Soviet republic of Moldova. And he hasn't hurt his own chances of succeeding Yeltsin, either.

Does Chechnya's de facto independence herald the dismemberment of the Russian Federation at the hands of its many minorities, as Russian opponents of peace in Chechnya have frequently alleged? Not at all. There is virtually no other part of Russia where a single non-Russian nationality constitutes an overwhelming majority of the population on a clearly defined piece of territory.

So Russia is going to get the two things it needs most: political stability and peace. Its economy remains a shambles, but there are some signs of a recovery in production, and Anatoly Chubais, the mastermind of economic reform in the early Yeltsin period, is now back at the Kremlin chief of staff.

Even the troubled issue of NATO's expansion to include former Soviet satrapies in Eastern Europe, which is strongly opposed by Russian public opinion,

is now being finessed. By the terms of an emerging tacit deal between Russia, Germany and the U.S., Poland, the Czech Republic, and Hungary will join NATO soon, but forego any nuclear weapons on their territory. "The Baltic states" and Ukraine will have to wait 10-15 years, however — and meanwhile Russia will be given an institutionalised role in NATO councils.

This is not a bad performance for a country that gave up its empire, lost its superpower status, and changed its whole political system and ideology only five years ago. In fact, it is miraculous.

George Kennan, whose famous post-war essay on the Soviet system outlined the strategy of "containment" that shaped Western policy for the next 40 years, recently wrote in his book "At A Century's Ending": "We are at a hard and low moment in the historical development of the Russian people. They are just in the process of recovering from all the heart-rending reverses of this brutal century have brought to them. We should bear this in mind."

So we should. We should also be deeply impressed and grateful at how well they are dealing with this painful process of recovery. Russia: The art of recovery.

## Arabs hold back from brink in ties with Israel

By Jonathan Wright

Reuters

CAIRO — Israel's right-wing government is pushing Arab states to the brink of despair with Middle East peace talks but diplomats say they do not yet seem ready to bite the bullet and turn their backs on the Jewish state.

Arab foreign ministers hunted around for a tougher negotiating strategy at a meeting in Cairo this weekend but hints that an announcement was imminent proved premature.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said they had agreed on a course of action but he declined to say what it was until Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak put it to other Arab leaders.

By the time the Arab leaders have all had their say, that course of action may be watered down to very little.

"People are trying to find a way out of the peace

process but it's a very difficult and very complicated process and it seems they have not found one yet," said an Arab diplomat close to the ministerial meetings.

"In the Arab League meetings the closest the ministers came to a decision was a restatement of the resolution taken at the Cairo summit in June," he added.

That resolution told Israel that Arab states would have to reconsider the concessions they have made if Israel drags its feet on its part of the peace agreements or reneges on commitments which the Arabs thought it had given.

The main Arab concession has been normal relations with Israel — diplomatic and political contacts, trade, travel and academic and cultural exchanges.

The diplomats said some Arabs were clearly unhappy that three months after Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu came

to power the Arabs are still talking about what to do.

Mr. Netanyahu has challenged the key principle of land-for-peace and has not carried out some measures explicitly agreed between the Palestinians and the previous Labour Party government.

"People are saying it's time to show Israel that we mean business. They are pretty frustrated," one diplomat said.

"We don't want talk, we want action," the Egyptian opposition newspaper Al-Wafd said Monday in a front-page editorial addressed to the Arab ministers.

"We've had enough of talk about how the Arab Nation believes in peace. We have sworn till we're blue in the face that peace is a strategic option... Then we discovered that Israel wants the land and the peace and the security and the money," it said.

It said Arab states still have the option of ending normalisation of relations, freezing the exchange of diplomatic and commercial missions and cancelling deals made during what it called the moments of spurious entente.

Syria, the most robust of the frontline Arab states in its dealings with Israel, has been pressing other states to join its longstanding boycott of multilateral regional talks.

Conservatives like Egypt and Jordan have held back, arguing that such talks help convince Israel of their good intentions.

An important test will be the Middle East economic summit set to take place in Cairo in November — a major event in the U.S. campaign to integrate Israel into the regional economy.

Egypt has linked the conference to Israel's conduct in dealings with the autonomous Palestinian Authority which

runs the West Bank and Gaza Strip and diplomats say they are not taking bets on whether Egypt will agree to let it go ahead.

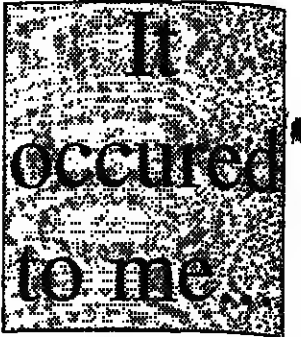
"Every day that the Israelis don't move out of Hebron, the prospects for the economic conference diminish. I don't want to write it off but Netanyahu isn't helping," a diplomat said.

In a Jewish New Year interview Monday, Mr. Netanyahu told Egypt it was wasting its time if it tried to use the conference to put pressure on his government.

"To threaten us, as pressure on us, to cancel the Cairo conference, is like a man who cuts off his nose to spite his face. We are not seriously listening to these things," he said.

"I do not advise anyone to use tools like this against us. It will also be of no help," he added.

"I imagine that not a few people in Cairo are seething with rage this morning," said the diplomat.



## Power in the bridal bower

By Ali Kassay

In the days of bachelorhood, which are soon to be filed away under the category of my misspent youth, I often debated with my male friends the question of Ismeh, which generally revolves around whether a woman should have the right to divorce her husband or not. I suggested that she should, arguing that the only acceptable reason for a woman to stay wed to a self-respecting man ought to be that she wishes it. Deprecators of this point of view offered many arguments which generally stated that this undermines the status of man and his powers in his home which is his castle. So, now that this castle of mine, such as it is, will soon accommodate a new occupant, this is an appropriate moment to reflect upon my status within the establishment, and my powers over the forthcoming addition.

To start with, as of signing the marriage contract, the apple of the eye loses her right to choose her whereabouts. Her abode will be wherever I see fit, and, should she attempt to absent herself, the law would give me a helping hand by using its proverbially long arm to implement my command for her to return to Bai'al Tarah (house of obedience).

Moreover, from that moment henceforth, the nearest and dearest will have no civil status of her own, except as my spouse, since she will be identified as such on her passport, should I choose. In my munificence, to allow her the luxury of having one, for although we are equal before the law, my wife can get a passport only subject to the acceptance of the one that is hers to obey. Excited about my new status, I asked the official at the inquiries desk if I also should not have a passport identifying me as her husband, but I surmised from the unspoken scorn in his eyes and those of all the men and women who overheard my remark that such a request would be hard to fulfil.

Of course, I shall let my nobility of spirit guide me into allowing the one to cherish until death do us part, to have a passport, for without one, she cannot get a job and contribute to the upkeep of her home and the welfare of her family like a modern woman should. At the same time, it is comforting to know, for it pays to be prudent, that no matter how I misbehave, she would remain powerless to put her travel document to the nefarious use of evading my domination, since it is at all times my prerogative to ban her from travelling, whereupon the law would obligingly step in to put a ban on her name at all points of egress of the country.

All this power over the life of another person should be the source of an endless ego trip, which is comforting. But my paranoid mind, rather than revel in glee, will always find a disquieting angle. Given the status of woman before marriage in our society, and the one that she adopts by having "I do" said on her behalf in the presence of the clergy, it would appear that the only status which would give the one that is mine to have and to hold, any control over her life, is that of widowhood. Perhaps it would be unnecessary to acquaint her with this minor technicality.

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## Syrian troop movements linked to 'faith' in Lebanese security

CAIRO (Agencies) — Syria is redeploying its troops in Lebanon in light of its "faith" in the ability of the Lebanese authorities to maintain security following years of civil war, Syrian Information Minister Mohammad Salman has said.

"After the first general deployment to end fighting (in 1976) a second phase was carried out to group the forces in strategic positions, observation posts and roadblocks," Mr. Salman told the Arabic daily Al Hayat.

"(The redeployment) reflects our faith in the growing capacity of the Lebanese security forces to maintain security" in the country ravaged by a 15-year civil war that ended in 1990, he added.

But other sources quoted by Al Hayat on Tuesday linked the redeployment to expectations in Syria that Israel was planning a military strike against guerrillas in South Lebanon led by the Iranian-backed Hizbollah.

Asked about an Israeli proposal to discuss an Israeli pullout from Lebanon as a confidence-building measure, Mr. Salman said his country rejected it because it would weaken the negotiating positions of Israel's Arab partners in the peace process.

Syria has officially rejected the so-called "Lebanon first" option, insisting that the starting point for new peace talks with the Jewish state must be an Israeli withdrawal from the Golan Heights.

"Israel has repeatedly sought to isolate the Arab tracks from one another, to weaken them. Separating the Syrian and Lebanese tracks is aimed at weakening them," he said.

"Negotiations between Israel and Lebanon will not be between a weak

party and a strong one that wants to impose its will.

"If an unfair solution is imposed on Lebanon, a large number of people will reject it and the fighting which Israel seeks will break out again between the Lebanese people," he said.

Syrian officials have stated previously that the redeployment of its forces in Lebanon was not linked to any developments in the region.

The troop movements were merely "part of military manoeuvres with live ammunition which started in July," Al Hayat said quoting Syrian officials, noting that similar wargames were underway in Egypt.

Newspapers in Israel reported on Monday that Syria and Israel had reassured each other through U.S. mediators that troop movements by their respective forces were of a non-aggressive nature.

In a message to Syria said it had "no intention on attacking Syrian forces either in Lebanon or Syria," the Israeli daily Yediot Aharonot reported. Syria maintains 35,000 troops in Lebanon while Israel has about 1,000 men deployed in a self-declared "security zone" in South Lebanon.

On Sunday Lebanese Foreign Minister Fares Boutz accused Israel of considering a new attack against his country.

Israeli leaders sought Tuesday to avoid a war of words with Damascus which they fear could spark an armed conflict.

Referring to widespread Israeli press commentary on the potential dangers of the "Syrian" movements, Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai warned against "a process of deterioration through words which could ultimately lead to results which one of the

two sides might not understand."

"There is no justification for the verbal escalation which has taken place in the past few days (although) it is appropriate to follow developments and take the necessary steps to display the responsibility which is required," he said in a statement.

But reflecting continuing Israeli uncertainty over the movement of Syrian troops into eastern Lebanon and towards the Golan Heights, Mr. Mordechai said there "is apparently more than one reason for the deployment of the Syrian army — some of which we accept and understand and some of which we find suspicious."

"We will do everything necessary so that we will not be surprised," he said.

President Ezer Weizman also expressed concern with the Syrian redeployment Tuesday but asserted that regardless of Syria's intentions, the movements posed no real threat to the Jewish state.

"Israel must be ready for any eventuality, but we must not give the impression that we are under pressure," Mr. Weizman said on Israeli Radio.

"Syria is not in a position to be able to surprise Israel like it did in 1973," he said.

On Monday Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu also joined the campaign to ease public concern over Syria's intentions.

"There is no reason to worry" about the troop movements, Mr. Netanyahu told Israeli television.

But, despite the public relations effort, the Israeli media continued Tuesday to give echo to bewildering and alarm among military officials who have no clear idea why Syria has in recent days shifted

thousands of its troops into Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley and near Mount Hermon in the southeast.

Army radio and the daily Haaretz focussed notably on reports that Syria had deployed special forces from its 14th Army Division on the northern slopes of Mount Hermon, at the northern tip of the Golan Heights.

They said the elite units were capable of carrying out helicopter-borne attacks on Israeli positions similar to those launched during the lightning 1973 attack on Israel by Syria and Egypt.

Most Israeli commentators viewed the troop movements as part of a campaign by President Hafez Al Assad to pressure Israel into resuming peace talks where they broke off in February under Israel's previous and more dovish Labour Party.

Those talks were largely based on an Israeli willingness to trade the Golan Heights for full peace with Syria, a stand Mr. Netanyahu has refused to adopt.

"Syria wants to show that if it is kept outside the peace process, it is capable of creating a belligerent climate to undermine everything," said Itamar Rabinovich, the former Israeli ambassador in Washington who took part in the previous peace talks.

Some Israeli officials and military experts suggested that the Syrian redeployment may foreshadow stepped up attacks on the Israeli-occupied buffer zone in southern Lebanon by the Hizbollah militia.

Former army Chief of Staff and Foreign Minister Ehud Barak, said the redeployment "could signal an escalation of Hizbollah activities following the Lebanese elections" which ended over the weekend.



FARMING THEIR LAND: Iraqi Kurdish family farmers work on their land in the Kurdish northern city of Erbil. Northern Iraq is reputedly one of the most fertile areas in the entire Middle East and, if properly exploited, could meet a large part of Iraq's food needs (Reuters photo)

## 201 militants to go to court in Egypt

CAIRO (AFP) — A total of 201 militants accused of carrying out or plotting attacks in Egypt will soon be brought before the high court of state security in five separate cases, legal sources said on Tuesday. The militants are members of the Jihad and Gamaa Islamiyah armed groups and have been behind bars while public prosecutors investigated their cases, the sources said. The first case

involved 70 "terrorist" members of the Gamaa Islamiyah who were arrested in 1993 and 1994 on charges of carrying out "the most dangerous" crimes witnessed by Egypt in recent years, one source said. The suspects are accused of bombing banks in Cairo causing no casualties, and cinemas killing at least one person, the murder of two senior police officers and a gun attack on

a bus carrying Austrian tourists, wounding several people. The second case involved 35 Gamaa Islamiyah militants arrested at the beginning of 1996 on charges of plotting armed robberies of jewellery shops. The prosecution will also refer to the High Court of State Security 35 other Jihad militants, including British passport holder Akram Al Sherif, who were arrested at the end of 1995.

They are accused of planning to carry out "suicide operations" against public figures and security officials and of plotting to bomb Cairo's famous Khan Al Khalili Souk, a favourite haunt of tourists, court sources said. The fourth case involves 45 Jihad militants arrested in July and included many who had come from Syria and Lebanon, who were planning attacks in Egypt.

## Lebanon legalises radio, TV, orders others to shut

BEIRUT (AFP) — The Lebanese government legalised several private radio and television stations on Tuesday and ordered dozens of others to stop airing news and political programmes as of Wednesday. Information Minister Farid Makari said the cabinet had agreed to grant licences to four television and 11 radio stations, most of which belong to pro-Syrian political leaders.

Their applications were approved Monday by the higher media council, a 10-member body appointed by the government and parliament, he said.

Future TV, owned by Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, National Broadcasting Network (NBN) due to be set up by House Speaker Nabih Berri, Murr TV owned by the brother of Interior Minister Michel Murr, and Lebanese Broadcasting Corporation International (LBCI), mouthpiece of the disbanded Christian Lebanese forces militia during the 1975-90 civil war, were given television licences.

Among the 11 radio stations, only three were allowed to air news and political programmes. They are the radios due to be set up by Mr. Hariri's future television and Mr. Berri's NBN in addition to LBCI's Voice of Free Lebanon.

Mr. Makari said the remaining media outlets were ordered to stop airing news bulletins and political programmes starting

Wednesday. They have until Nov. 30 to submit new applications for licences or face liquidation. More than 50 television and 100 radio stations mushroomed illegally during the 16 years of civil war in Lebanon.

The only legal media outlets were the state-run Tele Liban and Radio Lebanon.

The cabinet decision, which came after three years of heated debate, provided an exception for Manar Television and Voice of the Lighthouse, belonging to the Iran-backed Hizbollah, the main guerrilla group fighting to force Israel out of southern Lebanon.

Both stations will be allowed to operate until the end of the Israeli occupation in southern Lebanon, but they were banned from airing political programmes and asked to limit their shows to ordinary and "resistance" programmes.

Asked whether Friday prayers, which often tackle political issues, may be broadcast, Mr. Makari refrained from giving a clear answer, saying the licensing of religious media outlets will be discussed next week.

The government failed to grant licences to the three most important and oldest radio stations: the Phalange Party's Voice of Lebanon, the Communist Party's Voice of the People and the Voice of the Nation of the Sunni Muslim Makassed Welfare Association.

## Libya foiled bid to kill Qadhafi — Senussi

CAIRO (AFP) — The Libyan authorities this month foiled a bid to assassinate Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi and overthrow his regime, exiled Libyan Prince Idriss Senussi told the Arabic daily Al Hayat on Tuesday.

"The Libyan authorities discovered in the first week of September an attempt to overthrow the regime of Colonel Qadhafi which was being prepared by a group of army officers and members of Qadhafi's personal security," Prince Senussi said.

"This attempt was aimed at killing Colonel Qadhafi personally," he said. Prince Senussi, a cousin of the late Libyan monarch deposed by Col. Qadhafi and who lives in exile in London, said "45 army officers, including 20 from Qadhafi's own clan, plotted the coup."

He said the Libyan authorities had arrested many civilians and members of the military forces in various parts of the country.

An officer whom he identified as Captain Khamis Al Ghanai Al Khatri Al Qadhafi was accused by the Libyan intelligence forces of planning and preparing the coup with his brother.

He claimed there were two plans to assassinate Col. Qadhafi.

"One consisted of putting poison in the camel milk which Col. Qadhafi drinks when he eats dates and the alternate plan consisted of placing a bomb in the security vehicle which precedes the colonel's personal car," he said.

"The colonel usually rides in the security vehicle when he wants to fool people. But only a few security guards know of this tactic," he said.

Prince Senussi stressed that the coup bid was discovered by accident by a "purge committee" investigating one of the officers in charge of Col. Qadhafi's security for corruption.

The officer admitted under duress that a coup was being planned, he said. Prince Senussi went on to condemn Col. Qadhafi's rule and predicted that the colonel's regime was coming to an end.

"Qadhafi's stay in power means an increase in bloody confrontations with the opposition national forces which will not give up the struggle until after removing Qadhafi and his regime from power in Libya," he said.

## Peres: Netanyahu is isolating Israel

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Shimon Peres, Israel's opposition leader and former prime minister, assailed his right-wing successor Tuesday for plunging the country back into international isolation. "Israel is going backwards; we're cornered, threatened and isolated," Mr. Peres told a special session of parliament called to debate the stalemate in the peace process since Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu came to office in June.

"We will soon be able to say once again that the whole world is against us," Mr. Peres said in an angry address to the Knesset.

Mr. Netanyahu, head of the right-wing Likud Party, has undermined "every success obtained by the previous government," he said, singling out the Likud regime's refusal to accept the principle of giving up occupied territories in exchange for peace.

Mr. Peres, the main architect of Israel's Mideast peace strategy,

specifically hit out at Mr. Netanyahu's refusal to return to negotiations with Syria on the basis of seeking a secure, full peace with Damascus in exchange for giving up at least part of the Golan Heights.

He also dismissed Mr. Netanyahu's so-called "Lebanon first" attempt to resume Syrian peace talks by offering a conditional Israeli pullout from the buffer zone it occupies in Lebanon, Syria's client state.

"There cannot be a free peace without territorial concessions or a partial peace with Syria," he said. "Those who think that Syria is going to give up the Golan Heights and leave Lebanon is living in a dream world," he said.

On recent Syrian troop movements in Lebanon which have stirred concern in Israel, Mr. Peres accused Mr. Netanyahu of playing down the implicit threat being emitted from Damascus.

"Before the 1973 war no

one knew what was happening and that is why we must be vigilant today," he said, referring to the surprise attack on Israel by Syria and Egypt.

Tuesday's debate was called by Mr. Peres' Labour Party following the first meeting on Sept. 4 between Mr. Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat.

Mr. Arafat subsequently complained that the new Israeli government was doing nothing to carry out its commitments under peace agreements signed by the previous government.

Over the weekend a meeting of Arab League foreign ministers threatened to freeze all rapprochement with Israel if Mr. Netanyahu does not end the stalemate.

### EU and Orient House

The Israeli government will not receive the leaders of the European Union (EU) if they visit the unofficial Palestinian head-

quarters in the city Mr. Netanyahu said.

"We informed the European foreign ministers that if they visit the Orient House, we will not receive them," Mr. Netanyahu told the parliamentary foreign affairs and defence committee, according to committee secretary, Uri Radai.

Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring, president of the EU's council of ministers, said earlier this month that he expected EU leaders to continue meeting Palestinian officials at the Orient House.

Mr. Spring was responding to a request by Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy for the EU not to go to the Orient House.

The three members of the EU ruling council have not visited Israel since the Netanyahu government took office in June.

Mr. Netanyahu said the Palestinians are engaged in "an unceasing effort to erode Israel's sovereignty in Jerusalem."

## U.S.-Iraq tension on the rise again

(Continued from page 1)

Iraqi statements that they would not fire on allied aircraft or reconstitute air defences in the south.

Mr. Clinton insisted, however, "there was never any back and forth to the best of my knowledge."

Mr. Clinton sought to dispel criticism of his policy towards Iraq, saying other actions would have been too risky, such as sending ground troops in to force President Saddam out of northern Iraq or staging an attack that would have cost civilian lives.

"I feel good today that we did the appropriate thing in

the appropriate way and we got the results that we sought," Mr. Clinton said.

After the White House meeting, Republican Senator John McCain criticised the administration's handling of the crisis and questioned how meaningful sending several thousand troops to Kuwait was.

"In foreign policy, if you say you're not going to stand for an invasion of a Kurdish area and then you do relatively nothing, then there's a price to pay. And if you say you're going to respond disproportionately, as our secretary of defence said as short a time as two days ago, and don't, then there's a price to pay. And

when your allies become very uneasy, in fact not supportive except for the British, then you have a very serious challenge," Mr. McCain said.

The senator from Arizona said President Saddam was far better off than he was two weeks ago "and we have done nothing but launch 44 cruise missiles."

Democratic Senator Joseph Lieberman, however, described Mr. Clinton as "very resolute" that if the Iraqis did not respond to U.S. demands spelled out in a diplomatic note "they can expect to be hit again and to be hit disproportionately."

The diplomatic note dealt

with the location and condition of surface to air missile sites in southern Iraq, which were targeted in U.S. cruise missile strikes Sept. 3 and 4, he said.

"There is very much an ongoing situation in which the administration has stated a policy of containment, set some ground rules and communicated them to Saddam and if he doesn't respond, he'll pay," Mr. Lieberman said.

Sen. Patrick Leahy, a Democrat from Vermont, echoed Mr. Lieberman's comments, warning that Washington was in the position that "once we make a threat, we have to carry out that threat."

"It's very clear to Saddam Hussein there are things we expect him to do. If he doesn't do it, we will carry out that threat," Mr. Leahy said. "Frankly, if he just waits to see what we would do, if he doesn't carry out what we've asked him to do, then he is making a very, very big mistake."

Envoys from Kuwait, the strongest regional supporter of Washington's attacks on Iraq, toured Arab capitals on Tuesday to justify the continuing U.S. military buildup in the Gulf.

Information Minister Sheikh Saud Nasser Al Saud Al Sabah said after talks in Cairo with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak

that Kuwait still felt threatened by President Saddam.

"We don't deal with words but with realities which we see clearly in Iraq's south and these are worrying," Sheikh Saud told reporters before leaving for talks in Syria.

Kuwaiti Defence Minister Sheikh Ahmad Hamoud Al-Jaber Al Sabah left to tour some of the other five members of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC).

Kuwaiti Foreign Minister Sheikh Sabah Al Ahmad Al Sabah flew to London on Monday night from Paris for consultations with British officials.

## Regent meets German team

(Continued from page 1)

towards democracy and open economy making the country as a model for others in the region.

Several members of the Lower House of Parliament were present at the meet-

ing. The two-member delegation, which arrived here Monday, is staying until Saturday. They are scheduled to meet the speaker of the Lower House and government ministers and tour projects financed by Germany and tourist sites.

## IAF rejects joining cabinet

(Continued from page 1)

demanding that the law be amended to cancel the one-person, one-vote formula and to redefine constituencies in accordance with population concentration.

The 12th Parliament was the first to be elected under the one-person, one-vote formula that replaced the bloc-voting procedures followed under the previous law.

The holding of early elections would entail dissolv-

ing Parliament before it finishes its term in November next year.

House Speaker Sa'd Hayef Srour was Tuesday quoted as saying that there was no reason for holding early elections and dissolving Parliament. He criticised deputies who welcomed the idea, reminding them of the outrage that caused when the previous Parliament was dissolved two months before its term ended.



## Israel agrees to let PNA import more

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel has agreed to expand the list of goods the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) can import from other Arab countries, Finance Minister Dan Meridor said Monday.

An agreement will be signed next week, Mr. Meridor told reporters after the first working meeting under the new Israeli government of the Israel-Palestinian Joint Economic Committee. He did not provide details of the agreement.

Israel and the PNA have a customs union setting out the level of duties on imports from third countries. There is a separate list of goods the Palestinians can import from countries that do not trade with Israel and the two sides

have agreed to expand this list. Israel and the PNA also agreed to set up committees to address a number of economic issues.

One committee will discuss increasing the number of permits for Palestinian businessmen seeking to enter Israel.

Another will examine the issue of taxes collected by Israel that must be transferred to the PNA as well as debt owed by the PNA to Israel, mainly to the phone and water companies and hospitals.

A third committee will examine Palestinian complaints that Israel has made it difficult for them to move goods into Israel and parts of the Palestinian self-ruled areas in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

## Saudi king urges private sector to employ nationals

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia's King Fahd has called on the private sector to employ more Saudi nationals, the Saudi Press Agency reported Tuesday.

Saudi Arabia is facing the tough challenge of finding more jobs for its citizens and maintaining a generous welfare system at a time of state belt-tightening, economists say.

Of the 18 million people living in Saudi Arabia, six million are expatriates. Fewer than seven per cent of private sector employees are Saudis, economists say.

The agency said the king, during the weekly cabinet meeting on Monday, "urged the private sector to exert its optimum endeavour to create new employment avenues for Saudi graduates trained

and educated in specialities required by the kingdom's society".

Some economists estimate unemployment in Saudi Arabia, the world's largest oil producer, as high as 20 per cent and climbing. Sixty per cent of the population is under the age of 20.

The kingdom is using a big stick method with the private sector by withholding loans from companies of 20 people or more which do not increase Saudi labour by at least five per cent.

Saudi citizens had for decades favoured well-paid, half-day managerial jobs in the state sector, but the government can no longer create more public sector jobs to accommodate them.

## Efficiency drive at U.N. cuts paperwork by 27 per cent

UNITED NATIONS (AFP) — The United Nations Monday outlined results of an efficiency drive which has led to the volume of paper documents, weighing some 2,500 tonnes a year, being cut by 27 per cent.

At a news conference here, top U.N. financial officer Joseph Connor, who chairs the seven-person efficiency board, said that 400 projects had been identified to ensure that the world

body would provide "better service, better value and better management" in the next century.

The board, which was set up last year by U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, submitted its first progress report on Monday, on the eve of the 51st U.N. General Assembly session.

The report notes that the cost of processing documents in New York and

Geneva alone was \$290 million in 1992-93, and \$300 million in 1994-95.

"In addition to their cost, the volume of documents, more than 2,500 tonnes a year, has resulted in many complaints about their length and number," the report says.

The efficiency board ensured that in New York, the volume of production declined by an estimated 27 per cent in the first six

months of 1996, by cutting the length and number of documents, and by reductions in the number of copies printed.

Mr. Connor was unable to give a dollar figure for the savings, but in Geneva, savings of \$2.7 million were forecast for 1996 after a documentation volume cut of 10 per cent.

Many of the savings outlined Monday had been achieved by an improved

use of information technology, including distribution of documents on the Internet, while cuts had also been made in travel budgets. U.N. staff jobs have meanwhile been reduced by 9,000 in the course of this year.

U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright, whose country has been pushing for U.N. reform, welcomed the fact that "momentum generated by the member states has finally brought

concrete results."

"This report is a sign that the U.N. is changing how it does business," she said in a statement.

But asked whether in the United States might reconsider its opposition to a second term for Dr. Boutros-Ghali in the light of the report, a U.S. official told AFP that "it won't change it one bit. Our decision is irrevocable."

## Strong oil prices slash deficits of Arab Gulf countries

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Strong oil prices have slashed budget deficits of Arab Gulf states to their lowest ever level and some of them are projected to record surpluses this year, officials said Tuesday.

The surge in crude prices because of the Iraq-U.S. crisis and low oil inventories in industrial countries also enabled the six Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) states to record high real growth in their economies.

Saudi Arabia, the world's oil superpower, hopes its forecast \$4.9 billion shortfall will dissipate at the end of 1996 while an expected

surplus from higher crude export earnings would go to the reserves.

With crude prices staying nearly \$3 higher than their projected level in the budget and non-oil earnings growing, the kingdom's income will likely be nearly \$3 billion higher than its estimated expenditure.

Its economy, which accounts for nearly a quarter of the total Arab gross domestic product (GDP), is also set to grow by around six per cent, one of its highest rates since the end of the 1991 Gulf war, official figures showed.

In Kuwait, high oil income

will likely slash the real 1996 deficit to around \$2.3 billion from a projected \$4.3 billion, according to the Abu Dhabi-based Arab Monetary Fund (AMF).

"High oil prices will help Kuwait in its attempts to gradually eliminate the deficit," the fund said in a report about Arab economies. "In 1997, the deficit is expected to reach around \$1.67 billion compared with nearly \$3.8 billion, which had been projected earlier."

It said Kuwait's GDP would grow by more than two per cent in real terms despite lower government

investment as part of economic reforms.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE), the second biggest GCC oil producer, has projected a growth rate of six per cent and lower budget deficit.

But bankers said they expected the \$290 million shortfall to disappear at the end of the year because of high oil prices and unchanged spending.

The price of OPEC's basket of seven crudes has averaged \$19.17 until Sept. 12, its highest level since the oil boom of the early 1980s.

It is also around \$3-\$5 above the price assumed by GCC governments in calculating their annual budgets. They project low prices to stave off an economic crisis that could be caused by sudden price fluctuations.

Oil provides more than two thirds of the total income of the GCC countries and this had made their economies vulnerable to any price changes.

Analysts expect oil prices to remain strong until the

end of the year because of high seasonal demand in the last quarter.

With their oil exports staying at around 11.5 million barrels per day (bpd), the earnings of the six members are expected to top \$80 billion in 1996, more than \$5 billion above the 1995 revenues.

"1996 looks to be one of the best years for the GCC. Their economies are performing better and their budgets will be in a much better shape," a Saudi banker said. "Our expectation is that the combined deficit in the GCC budgets this year will dip to one of its lowest ever levels."

The AMF, the Arab League's main financial institution, said Oman's economy would record a real growth rate of 5.5 per cent in 1996 while the GDP of the remaining two GCC members — Bahrain and Qatar — would also perform better.

Oman said high oil prices and spending discipline enabled it to slash the actual

budget deficit to around \$63.7 million in the first half of 1996 from nearly \$286 million in the same period of 1995.

"I think the deficit could be totally stemmed by the end of the year, thanks to high oil prices and government measures to activate the economy," Muscat Stock Exchange Director Mahmoud Al Jarwani, told AFP.

### HOROSCOPE FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 18, 1996

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) You are full of energy and can handle career, public or credit affairs efficiently today, so get busy early and you can make great progress.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 21) You have fine ideas and should consult with those who have made a big success and can be helpful to you in putting them across.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) View all of your practical affairs wisely and then use your good ideas so that greater prosperity can be yours in the days ahead.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Don't be so sensitive with allies who are very businesslike, and then there can be greater cooperation between you and them.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) If you plan your time wisely today, your career activities will go smoothly and efficiently. Listen to what a loved one has to suggest for achieving success.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 23) Get in touch with those you want to join you in some recreational activities and set up appointments early. Show that you have vision.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 23) Even if in the business world today, think about how to improve the condition at your home and gain more harmony there.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) You are highly energetic today and accomplish a good deal with the fellow associates. Be dynamic in your thinking and activities.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Get busy and get financial and practical difficulties nicely solved today and stop being concerned about situations which you have no control over.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Get down to basics and make your wishes and ambitions very practical. See those who think along the same lines as you do.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Make practical plans for the days ahead and stop wasting time foolishly, and expand quickly. Impress your mate with some creative ideas.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Look to older friends for ideas which can bring you greater success. Then please them in a practical fashion which can be prosperous.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli.

## IMF presses European Union to meet Maastricht criteria

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is urging the European Union to respect the strict financial requirements set out in the Maastricht treaty ahead of monetary unification.

The recommendation came in the IMF's annual report and was based on discussions among fund directors last March.

"Most directors thought that if the qualifying criteria were loosened, the initial credibility of the European Central Bank would be affected adversely," the report said.

It added that the requirements on public finance, inflation, long-term interest charges and exchange rates "had played a central role in disciplining macroeconomic policies in many European Union countries" despite a regional economic slowdown.

On the question of budget deficits, the report said directors "favoured a bold approach to consolidation."

While IMF directors agreed that "more flexible labour markets in Europe were essential for realising the full benefits of monetary union, views diverged on the timing and on the importance of labour market reforms."

Once the European Union embarks on the final phase

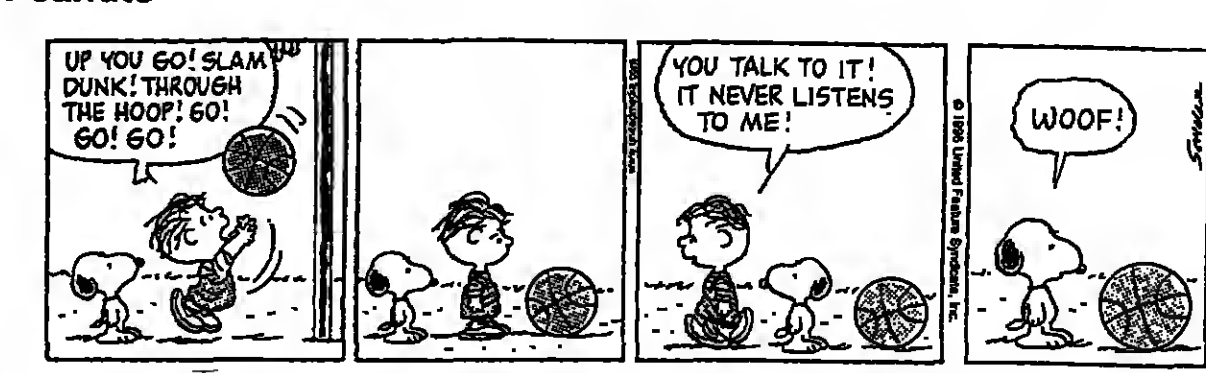
of monetary union, according to the fund, there should be "strong and symmetric intervention commitments to support the exchange rates of countries selected to participate" in order to "avoid speculation on the exchange rate."

IMF executives added that the fund should remain vigilant in its monitoring of the European integration process to "identify potential market tensions."

### THE BETTER HALF. By Glasbergen



### Peanuts



### Andy Capp



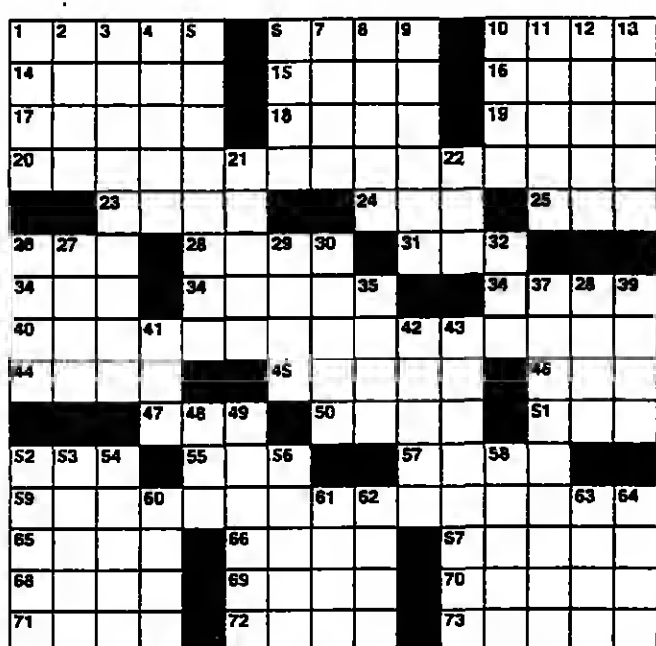
### Mutt'n'Jeff



### THE Daily Crossword by Frederick T. Buhler

#### ACROSS

- 1 Tablelands
- 6 Conveyance for Jim and Huck
- 10 Moby Dick's pursuer
- 14 Hebrew letter
- 15 Leading light
- 16 Fashion
- 17 Right-hand page
- 18 Singer Tennille
- 19 Times of note
- 20 Steels oneself
- 23 Author Ambler
- 24 There are 1,760 to a mi.
- 25 Permit
- 26 Cudgel
- 28 Corn units
- 31 Snigger's catch
- 33 "Exodus" hero
- 34 Greek covered walks
- 36 Workplace watchdog; abbr.
- 40 Concentrates exclusively
- 44 Pung
- 45 Farm inventor
- 46 Drop off
- 47 Barely remembered
- 50 State of agitation
- 51 Doctors; abbr.
- 52 Alias lepers
- 55 Dandy
- 57 She: it.
- 59 Eats an evening meal ravenously
- 65 Eli's alma mater
- 66 Nobelist Wiesel
- 68 Plains Indians
- 69 Poet Teasdale
- 70 Gooled
- 71 Sensible
- 72 Wets
- 73 Velocitators



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4 More appropriate

5 Most ostentatious

6 Alphabet run

7 On the crown

8 Imagination

9 Electron tube

10 USA word; abbr.

11 Every sixty minutes

12 Saw

13 Harass

21 Runs away

22 Expend

23 Ingols

27 Seed coat

29 "The — Not Taken" (Frst)

32 Fate

35 British gun

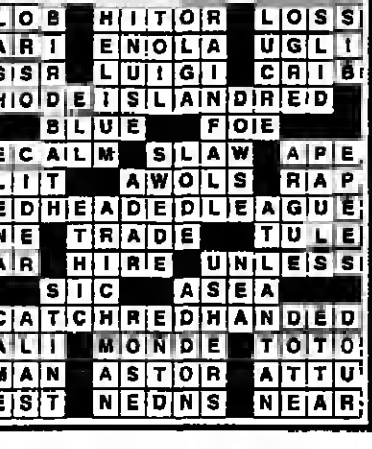
37 Asian land

38 Circle

39 Connectives

41 "Kookie" Byrnes

42 Indians



- 43 Japanese carved ivory items
- 48 Suppositions
- 49 Unpretentious
- 52 Chasm
- 53 Eucalyptus lover
- 54 Exhausted
- 56 Extremely opposite
- 58 Pinnacle
- 60 Head of France
- 61 Telegram
- 62 Tidy
- 63 Basin accessory
- 64 Energy units



pany in occupied East Jerusalem which is permitted to enter Israel from the West Bank, Mr. Aggad said. "We continue to provide service to Israel and we can compete with their best factories," he emphasised.

place with \$36 million. But Pink Floyd, Elton John, Billy Joel, Aerosmith, Boyz II men and Bon Jovi fell from the top 40, as did actress Demi Moore.

Energy			* JOD Cross Rates		
Commodity	Last	Deficiency	Currency	Buy	Sell
Coffee (c/hs)	112	Spot	US Dollar	0.708	0.710
Cocoa (\$/ton)	1408	Spot	GB Sterling	1.012	1.067
Sugar (\$/ton)	335	Spot	DE Mark	0.4581	0.4704
Wheat (\$/ton)	167	Spot	CH Franc	0.5699	0.5727
Soya (c/hs)	24.07	Spot	FR Franc	0.1375	0.1376
Tea (kg/box)	120	Spot	JP Yen	0.8426	0.8458
Barley (\$/bsh)	2.85	Spot	NL Guilder	0.4175	0.4196
Rice (\$/ton)	445	Spot	IT Lira	0.4641	0.4654

\* Sources: Central Bank of Jordan

AMERICAN FINANCIAL MARKET												
HOUSING BANK CREDIT ADVANT - RESIDENT												
TELEPHONE: 607171 / 607179												
ORIGINATOR MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 17/09/1996												
MARKET RISK	12 MONTH LOW	COMPANY'S NAME	P / H	QTY.	NO. OF SHARES	NO. OF SHARES	MARKET SHARE	VALUE TRADE	OPEN PRICE	CLOSE PRICE	CHANGE	
352.00	204.00	ARAB BANK	5.34	1.47	20	460	122975	24.00	248.00	2.60	0.00	
4.700	4.250	ARAB BANK	9.2	1.37	1	5002	22152	1.45	1.45	0.00	0.00	
3.800	3.000	BANK OF JORDAN	11.0	0.00	2	500	1352	3.05	3.05	0.00	0.00	
3.100	2.800	CHATELIER LTD	2.11	0.00	12	2577	207	1.62	1.62	0.00	0.00	
2.700	2.100	INDUSTRIAL DEV. INC.	5.2	6.13	4	2334	6234	2.29	2.29	0.00	0.00	
5.600	4.300	THE JORDANIAN BANK	13.52	2.77	4	1300	5590	5.02	5.99	0.04	0.04	
4.000	3.500	JORDANIAN BANK	10.4	0.00	8	846	1478	4.01	4.01	0.00	0.00	
1.240	0.900	JUM. GULF BANK	5.9	7.07	10	6135	6065	-0.01	0.99	0.04	0.04	
4.180	3.300	NO. JORDANIAN BANK	18.2	3.00	13	1590	7427	5.87	5.82	0.05	0.05	
3.930	3.610	UNION BANK TRANS.	1.2	0.00	3	866	1478	4.01	4.01	0.00	0.00	
4.950	3.000	JOR. DEV. P. BANK	19.2	0.00	4	1214	3598	3.50	3.41	0.09	0.09	
3.430	2.900	JOR. DEV. P. BANK	15.4	0.00	8	1078	1078	2.22	1.28	0.00	0.00	
1.090	0.200	ARAB BANK	13.6	0.00	3	3900	3900	1.28	1.28	0.00	0.00	
1.640	1.000	SHARHED. DEV. INC.	0	0.00	26	14647	20000	1.34	1.39	0.05	0.05	
BANK SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 189.80 CHG: -0.68 128 78411 229174												
2.910	2.150	ACM PRIMER INDUS.	0.2	9.09	3	6200	13480	2.21	2.20	0.01	0.01	
FINANCIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 121.16 CHG: -0.05 3 6900 13880												
1.000	1.450	JOR. ELECTRIC PWR.	11.4	7.27	45	30084	49528	1.85	1.84	0.01	0.01	
6.850	4.850	ARAB BANK	16.8	2.08	1	2000	9805	1.81	1.80	0.01	0.01	
3.100	2.950	CHATELIER LTD	2.2	0.06	3	1204	1204	1.62	1.62	0.00	0.00	
2.120	1.080	SHARHED. DEV. INC.	0	0.00	10	9398	6800	1.27	1.26	0.01	0.01	
1.100	0.850	JORDANIAN BANK	20.7	0.00	1	168	168	0.92	0.92	0.00	0.00	
1.360	0.500	JORDANIAN BANK	14.3	0.00	25	22450	15244	-0.85	0.68	0.03	0.03	
+ 10.210	6.000	ALARA	9.3	6.33	2	1300	1100	6.00	7.90	1.90	1.90	
2.620	2.300	ARAB BANK	13.6	0.01	12	20198	20198	1.28	1.28	0.00	0.00	
1.280	0.900	SARHA EDUCATION	0	0.50	8	8500	7698	1.20	1.16	0.04	0.04	
1.200	0.820	UNION BANK DEV.	0	0.00	3	750	743	1.00	0.99	0.01	0.01	
SERVICE SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 114.34 CHG: +0.17 119 76582 123754												
26.820	18.950	JOR. TOROCCO & CO.	26.2	3.74	2	316	4231	20.06	20.05	0.01	0.01	
2.710	0.040	JOR. ECONOMIC PWR.	19.4	2.95	22	8917	10349	3.38	3.39	0.01	0.01	
5.940	5.780	ARAB BANK	17.5	3.48	5	5960	16512	5.89	5.78	0.11	0.11	
10.850	7.730	JOR. ECONOMIC PWR.	20.2	0.00	24	8133	1374	1.30	1.30	0.00	0.00	
1.950	1.150	WOLAN INDUSTRIES	62.6	0.00	1	7000	4063	1.40	1.41	0.01	0.01	
8.180	6.420	JOR. ECONOMIC PWR.	11.1	3.83	2	30340	214770	7.20	7.03	0.17	0.17	
5.010	3.800	JOR. ECONOMIC PWR.	20.2	0.00	24	8133	20457	1.44	1.44	0.00	0.00	
6.450	5.250	JOR. ECONOMIC PWR.	7.6	4.13	1	80	208	6.07	6.10	0.03	0.03	
2.210	1.400	KAFKA INDUSTRIES	0	0.00	6	1330	1330	1.44	1.44	0.00	0.00	
1.800	1.300	ARAB BANK	13.6	0.00	8	1335	5328	1.28	1.28	0.00	0.00	
7.760	4.450	LITTECK & POULTRY	9	0.00	90	431390	138503	7.78	7.78	0.00	0.00	
2.500	1.060	ARAB BANK	8.7	0.00	21	7900	10040	1.28	1.28	0.00	0.00	
2.300	1.210	NATIONAL BANK	0	0.00	1	450	957	1.46	1.40	0.06	0.06	
1.120	0.600	NATIONAL BANK	10.2	9.70	7	3450	2201	8.79	8.79	0.00	0.00	
1.840	1.040	INDUSTRIAL DEV. INC.	0	0.00	11	5050	5802	1.14	1.16	0.02	0.02	
3.150	2.810	JOR. ECONOMIC PWR.	0	0.00	8	800	800	0.78	0.80	0.02	0.02	
3.150	2.940	JUM. GULF BANK	57.7	0.00	15	5100	12920	2.44	2.46	0.02	0.02	
4.260	2.500	KAFKA INDUSTRIES	16.6	0.00	1	500	1340	2.75	2.72	0.03	0.03	
3.110	2.830	JUM. GULF BANK	57.7	0.00	1	500	1340	2.75	2.72	0.03	0.03	
2.150	1.080	ARAB BANK	27.2	0.00	3	750	1095	1.45	1.45	0.00	0.00	
1.700	1.060	KAFKA INDUSTRIES	50.3	4.29	2	500	500	1.35	1.40	0.04	0.04	
3.900	2.880	JUM. GULF BANK	57.7	0.00	1	500	1340	2.75	2.72	0.03	0.03	
2.100	1.140	JOR. ECONOMIC PWR.	18.8	0.00	78	45843	57117	1.48	1.43	0.05	0.05	
1.750	0.950	JOR. ECONOMIC PWR.	37.4	0.00	28	35780	36707	1.01	1.01	0.00	0.00	
2.460	1.700	JOR. ECONOMIC PWR.	8.3	0.00	24	3172	3172	1.49	1.49	0.00	0.00	
1.400	0.990	UNION BANK	37.5	0.00	15	7150	9238	1.19	1.17	0.02	0.02	
2.120	1.170	UNION BANK & VEG.	38.1	0.00	5	2000	2964	1.15	1.14	0.01	0.01	
INDUSTRIAL SECTOR TOTALS INDEX: 110.27 CHG: -0.60 375 603881 791043												
GRAND TOTAL INDEX: 151.03 CHG: -0.55 625 761494 1157554												
FINANCIAL MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR TUESDAY 17/09/1996												
790	610	CENTRAL GEN. STORAGE	22.9	0.00	1	100	87	57	57	0.00	0.00	
610	400	JOR. ECONOMIC PWR.	18.9	0.00	4	400	3066	64	64	0.00	0.00	
990	440	ALARA CONSUMER CTR	5	0.00	34	38930	19774	53	86	0.03	0.03	
990	700	UNION BANK	75.6	0.00	39	101000	28088	80	79	0.01	0.01	
510	110	ARAB BANK	24	0.00	24	7150	7150	1.19	1.17	0.02	0.02	
840	610	ARAB BANK & HED.	2	0.00	2	2200	1580	72	72	0.00	0.00	
7460	1270	BANK CHONGKONG	0	0.00	7	043	1227	1.69	1.66	0.04	0.04	
750	750	JORDANIAN BANK	0	0.00	3	1400	1400	1.20	1.20	0.00	0.00	
1100	520	SHARHED. DEV. INC.	0	0.00	4	950	950	1.24	1.24	0.00	0.00	
1000	770	JORDANIAN BANK	0	0.00	13	31100	26132	1.20	1.20	0.00	0.00	
840	470	ARAB BANK	0	0.00	13	7500	4090	55	54	0.01	0.01	
860	690	UNION BANK	0	0.00	12	1000	1000	1.20	1.20	0.00	0.00	
1060	1100	UNION BANK	0	0.00	2	70	68	1.19	1.18	0.01	0.01	
860	630	BANK PRIMER	0	0.00	9	6600	1927	0.84	0.84	0.00	0.00	
860	460	UNION BANK	32.7	0.00	12	1000	1000	1.20	1.20	0.00	0.00	
2460	770	UNION BANK	0	0.00	8	3122	2560	0.84	0.84	0.00	0.00	
2460	530	UNION BANK	8.6	0.00	24	43250	32054	0.73	0.73	0.00	0.00	
GRAND TOTAL 225 312134 163420												

The survey showed that the paid-up capital accounted for 30 per cent of the total investments in its sector (Al Ra'i).

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Three Atlanta Olympic medallists, gold medallist Allen Johnson of the United States (centre), his compatriot silver medallist Mark Crear (right) and Florian Schwarthoff, bronze, of Germany leap over the last hurdles during the men's 110-metre hurdles in the TOTO International Super Track and Field Meet at the National Stadium in Tokyo. Johnson won the event with the time of 13.40 seconds and Crear placed second with 13.45. Schwarthoff finished third in 13.60 seconds (Reuters photo)

## Kipketer misses Coe's mark

TOKYO (AFP) — Wilson Kipketer put aside his missed opportunity of Atlanta to win the 800-metres in 1min 42.17sec at the Tokyo International Athletics meeting on Monday.

Kipketer, 25, missed the Centennial Olympics in Atlanta after rejecting an offer by the International Olympic Committee to run for his native Kenya. He has applied for Danish citizenship, which he is due to obtain in 15 months.

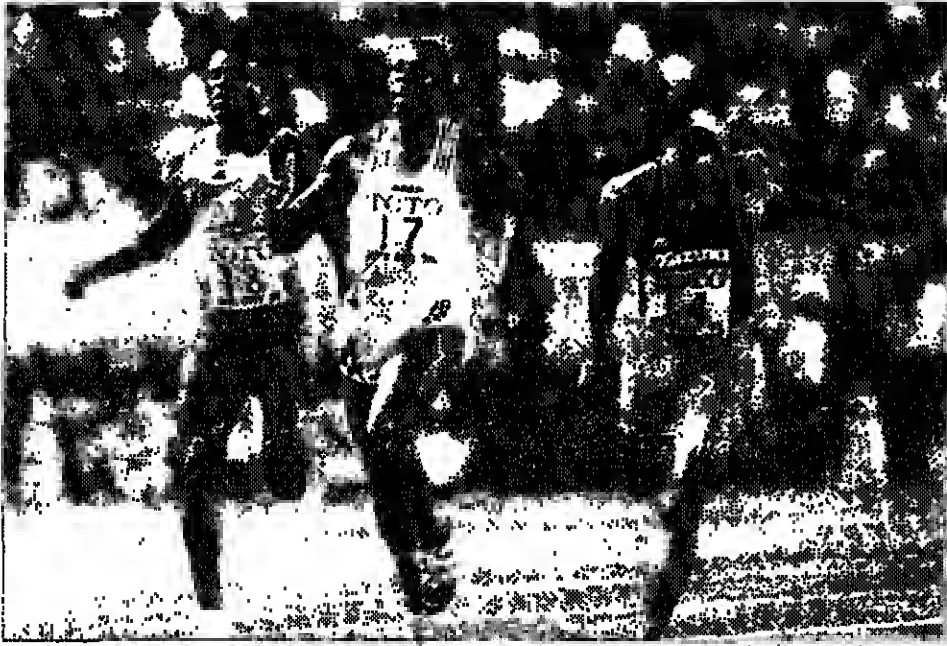
Kipketer's performance Monday was still short of Sebastian Coe's world record of 1:41.73 which the Briton set in 1981 and well behind the 1:41.83 he ran on September 1 in the Rieti Grand Prix for the third best time in history.

In 1984, Joachim Cruz of Brazil ran a 1:41.77 for the second best time ever.

Kipketer, who studied electronics at a technical school in Denmark for six years, stayed at home in Europe and had to look on as four people ran at under 1:43 in Atlanta.

Coe's 15-year-old world record has thus survived yet another Olympic year.

"To break a world record, you need a lot of preparations and it must be done in



Frankie Fredericks (right) of Namibia shakes off Donovan Bailey (centre) of Canada and Carl Lewis of the United States to win the men's 100-metre race in a Tokyo international athletics meet. Fredericks won the race in 10.02 seconds, Bailey placed third in 10.14 seconds, and Lewis placed sixth in 10.37 seconds (Reuters photo)

mid-June or mid-July."

Kipketer said after winning his last race of the season.

"I'm not going to say I can do it. But somebody can do it soon because you know there are many people who are running fast now."

"I didn't go for a world record but I tried to run fast," he said after his first race in almost three weeks.

"There was no pressure on me. I felt relaxed."

Japan's Hirohisa Muramatsu finished second in 1:47.13, almost five seconds off Kipketer, and American Johnnu Gray third in 1:47.66.

Asked if he regretted having missed Atlanta, Kipketer said: "That was not my idea to go inside and

kick somebody out (of the Kenyan team)."

"I also have my own principle. I ran for Denmark last year. If I run for Kenya now, it is going to be more complicated for my life," he said.

But Kipketer admitted: "Inside me, I am a Kenyan. There is nothing that has changed mentally."

## Wang, Sugiyama advance to 2nd round

TOKYO (AFP) — Taiwan's number one player Wang Shi-ling, whose previous visit to Tokyo ended in the first round in April, eased aside Rika Hiraki to get past the first hurdle at the \$450,000 WTA tournament on Tuesday.

The eighth seed, collector of the three different medals at the student games last year in Japan, needed only 49 minutes to score a comfortable 6-1, 6-3 win over the Japanese.

In the second round, Wang will take on Andrea Glass of Germany, the winner over Annabel Ellwood of Australia 6-4, 6-4.

Sixth-seeded Ai Sugiyama of Japan, enjoying her best season advancing to the fourth round at Wimbledon, also had a comfortable day, beating Adriana Gersi of the Czech Republic 6-1, 6-4.

"I've never heard of her name before. She runs very fast, covers the court very well and has a very good, angled forehand shot. But I was confident I would beat her if I play my tennis," said the 21-year-old Japanese.

Top four seeds — world co-number one Monica Seles of the United States, Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain, Kimiko Date of Japan and defending champion Mary Pierce of France — received first round byes.

In other matches, Park Sung-Hee of South Korea, who upset Date in the first round last year here, needed a tough time to beat Tamarine Tanasugarn of Thailand 7-6 (7/5), 6-2.

American Kimberly Po, who also shocked Date in the U.S. Open first round, chalked up a 6-2, 6-1 win over Japanese wild card entrant Miho Saeki.

## Kenny Smith joins Pistons

DETROIT (R) — Free agent point guard Kenny Smith, a member of two National Basketball Association championship teams with the Houston Rockets, joined the Detroit Pistons on Tuesday.

A team spokesman said the Pistons have called a news conference for to announce the signing of Smith, who played last season for the Rockets. No terms were disclosed.

The 31-year-old Smith spent the last six seasons with Houston but the Rockets renounced his rights after last season when he averaged 8.5 points and 3.6 assists per game.

Smith previously played for the Sacramento Kings and Atlanta Hawks. He has averaged 13.2 points and 5.7 assists in his nine-year career.

Smith recently said he would like to play

for Detroit because he would have a chance to compete for the starting job. Lindsey Hunter is the incumbent point guard, averaging 8.5 points and 2.4 assists last season. Smith was the starting point guard on Houston's championship teams in 1994 and 1995 but his scoring average has declined in each of the last five seasons.

The signing of Smith would be the fifth of the off-season for the Pistons. They have resigned free agents Otis Thorpe, Don Reid and Michael Curry and signed free agent Rick Mahorn away from the New Jersey Nets.

Detroit, which lost scoring guard Allan Houston to the New York Knicks through free agency and was unable to sign free agent centre Dikembe Mutombo, dealt four draft picks to the Atlanta Hawks for forwards Stacey Augmon and Grant Long.

## Steelers stun Bills

PITTSBURGH (R) — Jerome Bettis rushed for 133 yards and two touchdowns and the Pittsburgh Steelers intercepted Jim Kelly four times in a dominant 24-6 victory over the Buffalo Bills Monday.

Bettis had a one-yard scoring run just before the half and sealed Pittsburgh's second straight victory by crashing his way to a 43-yard TD run just before the half.

After Bettis's second touchdown gave the Steelers a 17-3 lead, the Bills tried to operate their two-minute offence. But Kelly threw a pass that Camell Lake picked off and returned 47 yards to make it 24-3 as time expired in the half.

"Obviously a big win for us, a good win," said Steelers coach Bill Cowher. "We did a lot of good things. We still have room to improve, pulled back a little in the second half, but that was due to circumstances in the game."

"We played well tonight. I think we're jelling as a team," defensive back Rod Woodson said. "Our run offence is going along well right now. I think the defence is coming together."

Kelly, who was 15-of-31 for 116 yards, was picked off four times in a game for the third time in a regular-season game. He was also picked off four times against the Washington Redskins in Super Bowl 26.

Bettis became the Steelers' first running back to rush for 100 yards in consecutive games since Barry Foster did it in 1992. Ernie Pgram added 84 yards on 17 carries for the Steelers, who amassed 382 yards of offence.

"This is great. I just wanted a chance and every day I thank God I'm here," Bettis said. "I couldn't have asked for a better situation."

The Bills led 3-0 midway through the first quarter on a 31-yard field goal by Steve Christie. Thurman Thomas set up the score with a pair of runs, including a key 13-yard dash on 3rd-and-10 deep in Pittsburgh territory.

Thomas finished with 68 yards on 16 carries for the Bills, who were held to 185 yards of offence.

The Steelers took the ensuing kickoff and moved 75 yards in eight plays. Tomczak completed a screen pass to Kordell Stewart that the versatile back broke for 48 yards to the 13. Bettis then cashed in with a one-yard touchdown plunge for a 7-3 lead.

Mike Tomczak completed 13-of-20 passes for 157 yards in improving to 2-0 as a starter this season.

"The barometer reading right now is that we're playing with good confidence," Tomczak said. "We're playing with the will to win and we're preparing well all week."

Norm Johnson added a 30-yard field goal, 6:25 into the second quarter, to give Pittsburgh a 10-3 advantage. The drive was set up by an interception by Jerry Olsavsky who lateraled the ball Woodson for 14 more yards.

Bettis capped the Steelers' next possession by breaking free for 43 yards and a score. Pinned at their own four, the Steelers mixed the pass and run to move to midfield. Bettis had a 13-yard run just before his scoring burst made it 17-3 and Lake's interception took it to 24-3.

The only score of the second half was Christie's second field goal, a 45-yarder just under five minutes into the third quarter.

"This was a discouraging loss and we all contributed to it," Bills coach Marv Levy said. "The offence, the defence, the coaching, we're all responsible for the loss."

"This was humiliating. Pittsburgh by every stretch of the imagination was the better team."

## Edinho sent off as red cards flow in Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO (R) — Santos goalkeeper Edinho, the son of Pele, was one of 11 players sent off in the Brazilian championship at the weekend.

Edinho was given his marching orders for dissent in the last minute of his team's 2-0 defeat by Goias in a game which saw the return of Santos' infamous "chequered flag" shorts. Santos defender Marcos Adriano and Goias midfielder Evandro were also sent off early in the second half.

Santos took the field wearing their unconventional black-and-white checked shorts, which shocked fans when they first appeared earlier in the year and had not been used previously in the competition.

"They lined up an ultra-defensive side" and were sunk by goals from former Santos players Indio and Marcelo Passos. Juventude had three players sent off, including goalkeeper Marcelo, as they went down to a 4-2 defeat against leaders Palmeiras.

Bottom club Bragantino finished with nine men as they lost 3-2 to Corinthians, their seventh defeat in eight games, while Internacional and Sao Paulo had one man each dismissed in their match.

Internacional won 1-0 with a controversial penalty as Carlos Alberto Pereira's team completed their fourth match without a win.

Sport Recife recorded the highest win of the tournament by thrashing a demoralised fluminense.

## Wright hat-trick seals Arsenal's day

LONDON (AFP) — A second-half hat-trick by Ian Wright sealed a day of double celebration for Arsenal who stormed to a 4-1 victory over Sheffield Wednesday — just hours after confirming Arsene Wenger as their new manager.

Frenchman Wenger will not take over at the troubled North London Club until September 30 but he will have been impressed by his side's spirited fightback which saw them overturn Andy Booth's 25th minute opener in emphatic fashion.

Former England captain David Platt sparked the Arsenal recovery with a sweetly-struck equaliser on 57 minutes from the edge of the box.

But it was Highbury hero Wright who stole the show with a hat-trick — his second goal a penalty — which took his league goalscoring tally for Arsenal to the three figure mark.

Wenger said earlier in the night that it was the spirit within Arsenal which attracted him to Highbury — a spirit the players showed in full measure on the pitch.

"It is a big club with a big history of big achievements. They have very strong fans, and I like the spirit that exists in the club and the spirit of the fans. I think there is something special around Highbury," he told sky sports from Japan before the match.

"I've seen all the tapes of Arsenal this season. I think the team has shown great fighting spirit and some good football. I think they have deserved better results than what they have achieved."

"Now they must keep their spirit — because they have the strongest spirit in Europe — and keep their strength."

## European coaches against golden goal ruling

COPENHAGEN (AFP) — European national coaches assembled here at their UEFA summit Monday aligned themselves against the golden goal ruling which was such a flap at the Euro 96 in June.

Ironically, only absent Czech coach Dusan Uhrin was for the rule even though his side lost 2-1 to Germany in the Euro 96 final with such a system.

UEFA General Secretary Gerhard Aigner added it was up to teams to try and end matches during 90 minutes to prevent unpopular ways to decide games.

"Whether or not to use the golden goal ruling begs the question of FIFA's competence. There are a lot of ideas in the air, but you should not forget that though coaches hate the golden goal ruling, the players are also opposed to penalties," Aigner said.

## Kjus suffering from persistent knee injury

OSLO (R) — Norwegian World Cup champion Lasse Kjus will carry a persistent knee injury into the new season opening in Sölden, Austria, on October 26.

The Norwegian News Agency NTB reported on Tuesday that the Olympic combined event champion's training had been affected by inflammation of the knee.

"I had a lot of injury problems last season so I took a long break in the spring," Kjus said.

"The only thing I can do to get rid of the problem once and for all is to take a really long break from training, but that's just not possible."

## Lama out for 2 months

PARIS (AFP) — Paris Saint Germain keeper Bernard Lama, who had a right knee operation on Monday evening, will be out for between one and two months, the club announced.

Lama will therefore miss the friendly match against Turkey at the Parc Des Princes in Paris on October 9.

After saving a penalty by Laurent Charvet against Cannes in the 83rd minute on Sunday evening, Lama fell over and felt pain in his knee.

The save ensured PSG's victory and meant they have not conceded a goal in their first seven league matches.

But it brought Lama's season to an abrupt end and meant changes must be made by both PSG and the French team.

Monaco's Fabien Barthez is set to step into Lama's shoes for the international game, while under-21 international Vincent Fernandez, who replaced Lama against Cannes, is likely to carry on the role.

## Ghana woo Pele in attempt to restore pride

JOHANNESBURG (AFP) — Ghana are hoping star midfielder Abedi Pele can help them salvage some pride against Kenya on Wednesday night in the Simba Four Nations Cup.

The legendary black stars looked a pale shadow of the team once feared throughout Africa when meekly surrendering to Australia in the opening round last Saturday.

Former African footballer of the year Pele was a notable absentee because he had just joined German club Munich 1860 on a free transfer from Torino of Italy.

On Tuesday, Ghanaian officials were frantically trying to secure his release for the rest of the Simba Cup, which finishes on Saturday with a double-header in Pretoria. Reinforcements for the Kenyan match include midfielder Sbam Quaye from Swedish club Uwer and forward Felix Aboagye, who plays for Egyptian giants Al-Ahly.

Adding to the woes of Ghanaian coach Sam Arday is the injury sustained by captain Ablade Kumah against Australia, which could rule him out of the second round match at Johannesburg stadium.

Kenya, unlucky 1-0 losers to South Africa in the Indian Ocean city of Durban, will lack five of the team which gave the African champions a tough time.

Captain Sammy Omollo, fellow defenders Musa Otieno and Vincent Kwarula and midfielders Sammy Sholei and Henry Motege are needed by Breweries for a Caf Cup quarter-final in Sierra Leone this weekend.

Motege powerful shooting will be particularly missed. He robbed of a late equaliser against South Africa by a goal-line clearance.

Yugoslav coach Vojko Gardesovic must hope for a greater contribution from Belgian-based forward Mike Okoth, the only professional in the side but a largely anonymous figure against South Africa.

TODAY AT	CINEMA TEL: 634144	CINEMA TEL: 699238	CINEMA TEL: 677420	Ammoon Theatre & Cinema TEL: 618274 - 618275	
	PHILADELPHIA	PLAZA	CONCORD	Nabil & Hisham's Theatre TEL: 625155	
	Nadia Jundi ... in ASSASSINATION (ARABIC) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	The Arab Cinema Surprise Ahmad Zaki...in Naser 56 (Arabic) Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:45, 11:00	CONCORD "1" Arnold Schwarzenegger & Vanessa Williams ...in ERASER Shows: 12:30, 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30 CONCORD "2" Sylvester Stallone ... in ASSASSINS Shows: 3:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30	Today presents Zawad Weld Awad theatre group in the play entitled Five-Star Government Starring comedians: Mahmoud Saimah & Hussein Tubeishat play starts 8:30 p.m	
				PRESENTS THE SATIRICAL COMEDY Arab Human Rights At 8:30 p.m. For reservation please call 625155-640155	







## ICRC in renewed bid to ensure respect for human dignity — Sommaruga

Red Cross president pays tribute to humanitarian work of Crown Prince

By R.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) is involved in renewed efforts to deeply entrench the concept of respect for human dignity in any situation in the behaviour of governments and parties. ICRC President Cornelio Sommaruga said Tuesday.

The issue has become particularly relevant in recent times since the civilian population rather than the combatants themselves bears the brunt of armed conflicts and this is an issue of high concern for the ICRC, he said.

Dr. Sommaruga, addressing a press conference at the end of a short visit to Jordan, paid tribute to His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's endeavours in this context, noting that one of the issues he discussed with the Regent was the inclusion of respect for human dignity in Jordanian curricula.

"It is not an issue limited to police and military," said Dr. Sommaruga. "We have to introduce the idea to the education system, particularly universities, which produce political leaders."

One of the basic founding principles of ICRC is respect for human dignity in any situation, but the concept is not fully upheld and as such the all-Swiss humanitarian organisation feels the urgent need to strengthen it throughout the world, said Dr. Sommaruga.

The ICRC president recalled that the Crown Prince had accomplished significant progress in this respect as head of the Independent Commission on International Humanitarian Issues (ICHI) under a mandate from the United Nations in the mid-80s.

"Jordan, particularly Crown Prince Hassan, has done a lot to support Red Cross activities not only in Jordan and the region but also in the international scene," Dr. Sommaruga said.

Dr. Sommaruga also particularly referred to the help that Jordan had been extending to ICRC to carry out its work in Iraq.

"Almost all the work we have done in Iraq has been through Jordan, and we are extremely grateful to the Kingdom for the help it has been extending to us," he said.

Dr. Sommaruga, who was in Jordan to attend the 26th conference of Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross Societies, said the meeting had underlined the "excellent level" of cooperation between the ICRC and the various national Red Crescent and Red Cross societies.

"What was also highly positive was the importance given by all the societies to international humanitarian law and its dissemination," he said.

While most countries have ratified the Geneva Conventions, which form the ICRC's raison d'être, many governments have not really absorbed international humanitarian law into their national legislation, he said.

Dr. Sommaruga cited an example: International humanitarian law stipulates that no one, regardless of nationality or any other consideration, should get away with committing crimes against humanity. There have been cases when persons suspected of having committed such crimes pass through other countries with impunity while the respective governments knew that those persons were wanted in connection with such crimes.

In most cases, the justification was that the concerned government did not have a relevant law to detain them.

"If the respective governments had adopted international humanitarian law as part of their national legislation, then they would have been in a strong position to adopt the necessary action," Dr. Sommaruga pointed out.

In an address to the conference of Arab Red Crescent and Red Cross societies on Monday, Dr. Sommaruga emphasised the necessity for governments not only to adopting international humanitarian law but also enforcing it.

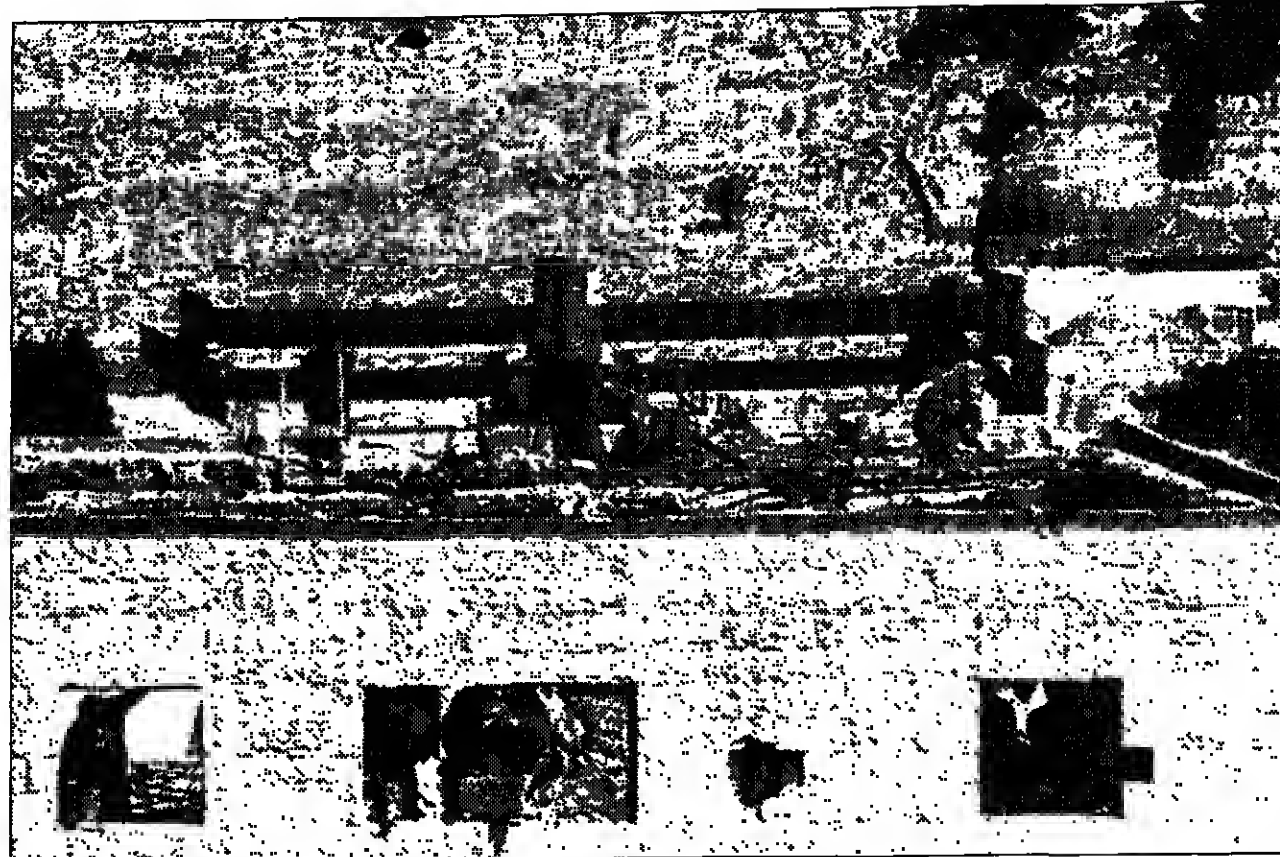
He renewed a proposal that "we subscribe to a new contract of humanity whereby states, all the components of our movement and the entire international community undertake to give their unreserved support to efforts aimed at applying international humanitarian law."

Dr. Sommaruga also focused on the need to raise awareness and application of call for respect for human dignity in situations of conflict.

"We are all aware that today's conflicts are evolving in such a way that neither humanitarian law nor the rights of the victims are given pride of place," he said.

"The civilian population falls prey to what has become to be called 'cleansing': whether ethnic, religious or clan-motivated; irregular 'combatants' springing up spontaneously; warlords divide up territories among themselves and undermine the centres of decision-making and responsibility."

"If we do not succeed in making the authorities, the armed forces and the public at large more familiar with humanitarian law and the basic principles of humanity relating to civilians and to combatants who have laid down their weapons, future prospects for war victims will be dismal indeed."



Israeli workers use jackhammers on Tuesday to tear down the second storey of a Palestinian home in the Old City of Jerusalem which the Israeli occupation authorities said had been built illegally (Reuters photo)

## Israel destroys part of Palestinian home

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Scuffles broke out between Israeli soldiers and Palestinians who were protesting the partial demolition of a Palestinian home in Jerusalem's Old City on Tuesday.

Around 60 residents of the area marched in protest on the house as the Israeli army demolished the top floor of the building, located in the Armenian quarter of the city near Jaffa Gate.

When the soldiers and police, who were out in force during the demolition to prevent incidents, broke up the march, fistfights erupted, witnesses said.

One Palestinian was taken to hospital after being punched and thrown to the cobblestone ground, they said.

Police sources said the demolition had been ordered by Israeli authorities because the second floor of the building had been built without a permit.

"They came at five in the morning and threw me, my wife and children out. There was no previous warning at all. This is barbaric," the house's owner Aiman Yaghmur told AFP.

"We were just doing renovations on the second floor, we weren't building on it. Olmert wants us to sleep in the street," he said, referring to Ehud

Olmert, the right-wing Likud Party mayor of Jerusalem.

Israeli authorities, cited by state radio, said they had repeatedly warned Mr. Yaghmur and given him the opportunity to demolish the top floor himself so he could keep the building materials.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu met with Mr. Olmert on Monday, "urging him to act with restraint" in demolitions in East Jerusalem "due to sensitivities among Palestinians and the international community," the Israeli daily Jerusalem Post said.

On Monday, a group of Israeli and Palestinian lawyers said they would take legal action against the Israeli government for demolishing "illegally built" Palestinian housing.

"The Israeli army has destroyed in the past months 10 Palestinian homes in the West Bank," Zehava Galon, head of the Israeli civil rights movement told state radio.

"We plan on taking the Israeli government to court for its deliberate discrimination against the Arab residents of the West Bank and East Jerusalem," Ms. Galon said.

"The previous (Labour Party) administration only demolished homes

for security reasons, but the current officials do it merely because the houses have been built without permits," she said.

"Over 25 years of occupation, Israeli policy has deliberately aimed to limit the granting of building permits to Palestinians in the territories," she added.

Palestinian legislators accused Israel of trying to sabotage Israeli-Palestinian peace talks by stepping up house demolitions.

"This proves the intentions of the Israeli government to scuttle the peace process by provoking the Palestinian leadership," said Ziad Abu Ziad, a member of the Palestinian legislative council from Jerusalem.

Palestinians say they are systematically denied building permits as part of an Israeli policy to limit the number of Palestinians living in the city. Palestinians are now 28 per cent of the population.

The Israeli human rights group B'tselem has said there is a clear policy of discrimination by giving orders to demolish houses of Palestinians" while encouraging Jewish construction.

## Serbs will have to work with former enemies — diplomats

BANJA LUKA (R) — Despite fiery separatist rhetoric during the election campaign, Bosnian Serb hardliners accept they will have to cooperate with their wartime foes and take part in Bosnia's new inter-communal government, Western diplomats said on Tuesday.

The separatist SDS party which led the Bosnian Serb war effort was poised to overwhelm "moderates" in the battle for the Serb seat on the new collective Bosnian presidency and for control of a Bosnian Serb assembly.

A partial count of the returns in Saturday's vote showed that SDS candidate Momcilo Krajisnik was certain to join the three-man Bosnian presidency.

All three sides used tough talk on the stump but diplomats believe that was mostly posturing. Mr. Krajisnik is the most powerful politician in the Bosnian Serb Republic and the fact that he was nominated was a sure sign that the SDS was taking the presidency seriously, diplomats said.

"Krajisnik would have no stood for something that has no influence," one added.

Although the election results appeared to be confirming the ascendancy of

hardliners on all sides, some analysts believe elections mean that Bosnia has taken a stride to peace that will be irreversible under strict scrutiny by the international community. The presidency members are expected to be invited to the United Nations next month where "each will have to commit himself to Bosnia in the eyes of the entire world," the diplomatic source said.

"The Bosnian Serbs have so far been living in a limbo. Now they have a state and their leaders will have to play by international rules or else."

The first to swallow the bitter pill of international pressure in that respect was Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic, who was forced by mediators at the weekend to retract her separatist statements.

"In 1990 (Bosnian Serb leader Radovan) Karadzic promised his Muslim and Croat rivals in the parliament the gates of hell would soon open. We have now shut them formally and we will have no more such rhetoric," the diplomat said.

Senior Bosnian Serb sources close to the government acknowledge that Serbs have no option but to cooperate.

## Arafat to meet Israeli defence minister today

GAZA CITY (AFP) — Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Israeli Defence Minister Yitzhak Mordechai will most likely meet for the first time on Wednesday to discuss Hebron and other issues, a senior Arafat aide said.

"It is expected that the meeting will take place tomorrow evening," Nabil Abu Rdaina, a close advisor to Mr. Arafat, said.

Mr. Arafat will also meet with U.S. Middle East envoy Dennis Ross in Gaza on Wednesday before the Mordechai meeting "to explore the latest developments in the Palestinian-Israeli peace process," Mr. Abu Rdaina said.

Mr. Ross arrived in Cairo on Tuesday at the start of a tour which will also take him to Israel and possibly Syria aiming to revive the flagging Middle East peace process.

Palestinian sources said the long-awaited meeting between Mr. Arafat and Mr. Mordechai would take place at the Erez border crossing between Gaza and Israel.

Mr. Arafat, who returned on Tuesday from a trip to Egypt, Zimbabwe and Japan, confirmed to journalists preparations for meeting Mr.

Mordechai were underway, but would not specify when it would take place.

At the top of the meeting's agenda would be "to implement what has been agreed upon, especially the redeployment from Hebron, the isolation of Jerusalem and Israel's redeployment from other areas of the West Bank," Mr. Arafat said.

The Arafat-Mordechai meeting has been tossed around for weeks but has apparently been held up by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's indecision on Hebron, the last major West Bank town under Israeli occupation. Under the terms of the 1993 Oslo accords extending Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank, Israel was due to turn 80 per cent of Hebron over to Mr. Arafat's Palestinian National Authority (PNA) in March, leaving a small army force behind to protect 450 Jewish settlers living in the heart of the city of 120,000.

Mr. Netanyahu has said he wants to modify the pullout plan to increase security for the Jewish settlers and religious sites in Hebron. Mr. Arafat has ruled out any renegotiation of the Oslo terms for the pullback.

## Efforts continue to pinpoint cause of death of 2 children

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The criminal lab at the Public Security Department is still conducting laboratory tests on samples taken from two children found dead in their apartment in Shmeisat last week, official sources said Tuesday.

The source denied earlier reports that the children had inhaled a chemical, stressing that the children had consumed a poisonous material.

According to the sources, the high number of substances which must undergo analysis is delaying the final results of tests.

"We are taking our time because we prefer accuracy over speed," one source explained.

Attorney General Mohammad Najdawi is expected to be

in charge of the case when the final results are announced.

The mother of the two found her daughter Hanin Mazen Maari, nine, collapsed behind the front door to their apartment at Abu Oneizah Housing, Hani, six, was found, in his bedroom, also dead. The children were declared dead on arrival in hospital.

The children were left alone after their mother went to give her husband a ride to work at 6:45 a.m.

Food poisoning had been ruled out as a cause of death. The official sources also denied earlier reports that blood samples were sent abroad for tests.

A close relative of the family told the Jordan Times that the authorities informed them that the results were expected to be announced today (Wednesday).

## Pro-Syrians' sweep of Bekaa polls confirmed

BEIRUT (R) — Syrian-backed candidates won a resounding victory in the last round of Lebanon's five-stage parliamentary elections, winning all but two of the 23 Bekaa Valley seats, official results on Tuesday showed.

Official results of Sunday's Bekaa vote showed a Syrian-backed list that included several ministers and deputies and candidates of Hizbollah and the secular Amal, Lebanon's two main Shi'ite Muslim movements, winning 21 seats.

The results, announced by Interior Minister Michel Al Murr, determined the final form of the 128-seat half-Christian half-Muslim parliament where pro-Syrian candidates won an overwhelming majority in five voting rounds begun on Aug. 18.

Total voter turnout in all five rounds was put at 44 per cent of

some 2.57 million eligible voters in Lebanon, compared with turnout of 30 per cent in 1992 polls. The main loser on the Syrian-backed ticket in the Bekaa was Education Minister Robert Ghanem who lost by a small margin to Henri Shdeed, a Christian independent running on a small list.

Mr. Ghanem, one of six ministers on the list, was the only one to lose among 21 members of the 29-man cabinet who ran in the polls.

The highest number of votes, 105,192, was received by the candidate of the Syrian-backed Amal movement, Housing Minister Mahmoud Abu Hamdan. An Amal ally also won — meaning the group now has six members and three allies in parliament, including its chief Nabih Berri, speaker of the outgoing assembly.

## 3 held for JD7 million embezzlement

By Rana Hussein  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Three people have been ordered detained by the Amman prosecutor general after being charged with embezzling about JD 7 million from a bank in Jordan, official sources said Tuesday.

One source told the Jordan Times that the three, two of them employees of the bank in Amman, were involved in embezzling huge amounts of money through commission.

Charges pressed against the three by attorney general Mohammad Harahsheh include embezzlement, forgery and the use of forged documents.

The sources also said that the three men were also involved in paying commissions to individuals and traders outside the country.

According to lawyer Badi Qobein, who will defend the three, his clients were ordered detained Tuesday by the authorities because he was not present when they were called to Mr. Harahsheh's office.

"Since I was unable to be present when they were ordered held, the prosecutor general decided to detain them for tonight to ensure their presence in court today (Wednesday)," Mr. Qobein told the Jordan Times.

Mr. Qobein added that the case was filed against his clients by a former employee who had conflicts with one of the three defendants because he was forced to resign.

Mohammad Harahsheh, the prosecutor general who is handling the case, declined comment on the case.

## 'UFOs' sighted in Amman and Nazareth

AMMAN (J.T.) — Unidentified flying objects (UFOs) were sighted over the skies of Amman Thursday evening, according to a report published in Al-Dustour Arabic daily.

"Strange but seemingly real objects with glaring lights of different colours moved in the skies of Amman Thursday night and was seen by a number of citizens," the paper said.

Minister of Information Marwan Muasher, in reply to an inquiry through Internet, said: "On my way home from a dinner, I saw such strange objects

Thursday night. I cannot explain what I have seen or find an explanation for this phenomenon."

Concerned departments were investigating the affair, he said.

Al-Dustour quoted the Meteorology Department as saying it had no clues to the incident.

"It was reported in various places at various times, but our equipment cannot monitor such a phenomenon because it is not meteorological but astronomical," it quoted a department source as saying.

"Even if monitored, such a phenomenon could be unexplainable scientifically and it happens at various times," the source was quoted as saying.

In Nazareth, Israeli police sources said a man reported that he was kidnapped and beaten by "strange creatures."

Yuri Sakov told Israel Radio that he was seized for three hours in a flying object made of glass after it landed at his garden.

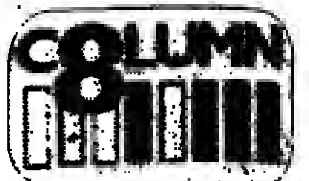
"Strange creatures seized me for three hours after they painted me with a yellow and green paint which caused me itching. The paint's traces are still visible

on my body," said Mr. Sakov.

Mr. Sakov was admitted to Afuleh Hospital in Nazareth for full check-ups. Dr. Aziz Darawsheh, who works at the hospital, said: "Samples were taken from the traces of paint on Mr. Sakov's body."

Mr. Sakov underwent a psychological check-up and was proved to be mentally well," said Dr. Aziz.

Police did not find any trace in Mr. Sakov's garden but they said that some residents claimed they had seen unidentified flying objects recently.



## Clint Eastwood takes stand in civil trial

BURBANK, California (R) — Clint Eastwood said Monday he signed a secret deal with Warner Bros. to protect the studio from any potential losses from films directed by his ex-lover, Sondra Locke, who is suing him. Ms. Locke, who met Eastwood on the set of the 1975 movie The Outlaw Josey Wales, alleges in her suit that Eastwood essentially destroyed her directorial career in Hollywood. Eastwood, speaking in court, one-word sentences, testified at a civil trial that Locke had no knowledge of the deal, which she alleges helped sabotage her career as a director and actress.

Eastwood, known for playing Hollywood tough men of few words, answered just "yes," "no" or "that's right" to about a dozen questions from Locke's lawyer, who rested her case after five minutes.

Eastwood's lawyer said he would cross-examine the star later. The case stems from Locke's original 1989 palimony lawsuit against the Oscar-winning director and actor Eastwood in which she claimed assets the couple accumulated during their relationship. Locke later dropped the palimony suit when Eastwood agreed to secure the director's contract worth \$1.5 million at Warner Bros. for her. But Locke now claims that contract was "a sham" and is seeking damages of over \$2.5 million.

## Kapil Dev kidnap plot foiled, claim police

NEW DELHI (AFP) — A plot to kidnap Indian cricketing legend Kapil Dev has been foiled by police, newspapers reported Tuesday. Punjab police announced they had arrested an armed Kashmiri militant near Chandigarh who, they claimed, was planning to trade Kapil Dev for an imprisoned rebel chief. State police chief Sube Singh, quoted by the Times of India daily, said Bilal Ahmad was part of a Kashmir Muslim militant group called the Al Umar Mujahideen and had been armed with a 30 millimetre pistol and cartridges. Police officials said Bilal, who wanted to force the authorities to release imprisoned rebel chief Mushtaq Latram from a Delhi prison, had admitted he had been trained to handle weapons and explosives in Pakistan. The group had previously kidnapped a politician from the eastern state of Bihar and held him for 11 months before troops freed him. Muslim militants in Kashmir have been waging an armed struggle to secede from India since 1989. More than 15,000 people have died during the campaign.

## Finnish party ad upsets family of John Wayne

HELSINKI (AFP) — The family of American screen legend John Wayne is considering legal action against Finland's largest opposition party for using "the Duke" in its municipal election campaign without permission, Finnish daily Helsingin Sanomat said Tuesday. According to the paper, Wayne's eldest son, Michael, is looking into the possibility of seeking damages from the Centre Party. The party has used four scenes from John Wayne's 1974 film Angel And The Bad Man. The scenes, which have been dubbed into Finnish, feature Wayne cutting down the two largest parties, the Social Democrats and the Conservatives, and urging voters to vote for the Centre Party on Oct. 20. Michael Wayne told Helsingin Sanomat that none of Wayne's seven children had given the party permission to use their father in the campaign. The copyright to the movie was owned by Republic Pictures, which let it lapse.